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DEPT. OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
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Minister of Trade and Commerce

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
INTERNAL TRADE BRANCH
OTTAWA, CANADA

Dominion Statistician:	R.H. Coats, LL.D., F.R.S.C., F.S.S. (Hon.)
Chief, Internal Trade Branch:	Herbert Marshall, B.A., F.S.S.
Statistician:	A.C. Steedman, B.A.

CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, OCTOBER, 1939

Introduction

Indexes reflecting current trends in food distribution in Canada have been published for some years, indexes of retail and wholesale grocery trading establishments forming components of the two regular monthly bulletins on retail and wholesale trade issued by the Internal Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This new series brings together in one report the information on retail and wholesale grocery sales contained in the other bulletins thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution.

Wholesale Trade

Sales

Sales of 44 wholesale trading houses in the grocery trade averaged 18.1 per cent higher in October of this year than last but declined 23 per cent from September when increased consumer purchasing together with inventory buying by the retail trade increased dollar business 42.5 per cent above September a year ago. The seasonally adjusted index stands at 110.7 for October, substantially below the September peak of 146.7 and about on a par with August when the index was 111.6.

Indexes of Sales, 1930 = 100

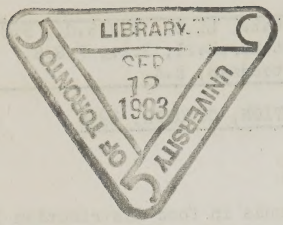
	1939			1938
	October	September	August	October
Unadjusted index	126.7	164.9	120.0	107.3
Seasonally adjusted index	110.7	146.7	111.6	93.7

All regions of the country reported increased sales compared with October, 1938 and decreases from September. Comparison of trends by regions is shown below.

	October Dollar Sales Per cent change from		Year to date 1939 / 1938	Number of firms reporting
	October 1938	September 1939		
Canada	+ 18.1	- 23.1	+ 8.2	44
Maritimes	+ 17.2	- 22.6	+ 8.4	7
Quebec	+ 9.9	- 14.9	+ 7.1	12
Ontario	+ 14.8	- 28.1	+ 7.9	10
Prairies	+ 23.1	- 21.2	+ 8.7	9
British Columbia	+ 23.4	- 27.1	+ 9.0	6

Stocks

Wholesalers' inventories were valued 28 per cent higher at the end of October of this year than last and were up 24 per cent from September 30, 1939. These ratios alone may be misleading. Stocks on hand at any given period are unduly high or low only when considered in relation to sales realized in the immediately ensuing period. Wholesale grocers' stocks were valued 8 per cent higher at the end of September, 1939 than on the corresponding date of 1938. But since sales in October, 1939 were 18 per cent higher than in October, 1938, wholesalers were actually in a shorter stock position in relation to sales at the end of September this year than on the corresponding date a year ago.


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A better interpretation of stock data may be obtained by assuming that there is a normal ratio which stocks on hand at the beginning of any month should bear to sales during that month. This ratio will vary for different months of the year but may be considered constant for any one month in successive years. The inventory position at any period may then be indicated by comparing the ratio of stocks to ensuing sales with the average or normal ratio for that period of the year.

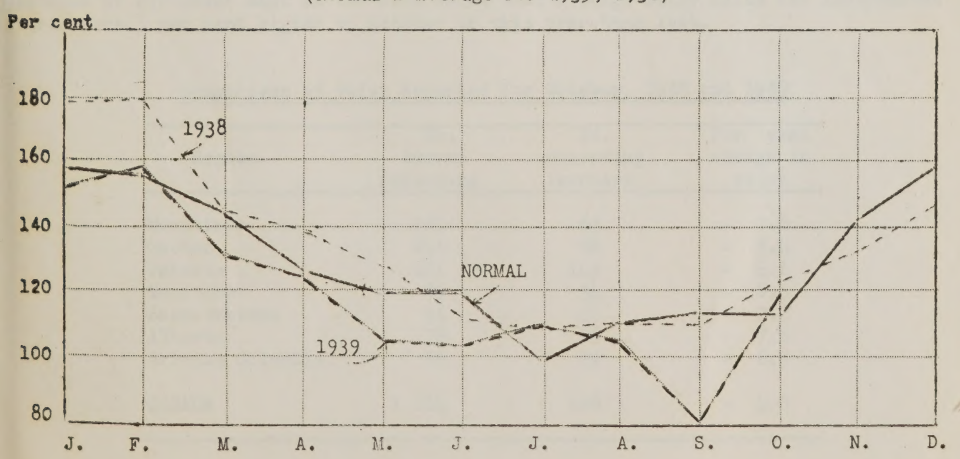
The relationship which stocks on hand at the beginning of each month bore to sales during that month was averaged for corresponding months of 1935 and 1936 and was plotted in the chart shown below to provide an assumed normal relationship of stocks to sales for each month of the year. Thus on the basis of the average experience of these two years, wholesale grocers' stocks on hand at the beginning of the year were valued at 158 per cent of the January sales. The corresponding figure for February was 155 per cent, the ratio then declining throughout the spring and summer months reaching a low point in July. Stocks on hand at the beginning of July approximately equaled sales realized during that month. Wholesale grocery sales increase seasonally during the autumn months but stocks are normally accumulated at an even faster rate with the result that the stock-sales ratio increases again until the end of the year.

Thus wholesale grocers stocks at any period do not normally fall below a month's requirements and are generally considerably in excess of that figure. This fact may be expressed in another way by stating that the rate of stock-turn for the wholesale grocery trade is less than once a month; calculations based on average monthly inventories and annual sales reduced to a cost basis show that stocks in the wholesale grocery trade are turned on an average of 9 times during the year.

Inventory position at the beginning of any month in relation to the assumed normal may be readily observed by inspection of the chart. Wholesale grocers' stocks (in relation to realized sales) were below normal in the spring and early summer of 1939, rose in July, and were markedly below normal at the beginning of September in view of the excessive buying which took place in that month. Return to normality is observed in the inventory position at the beginning of October.

Wholesale Grocery Trade:- Percentage that Stocks on Hand at Beginning of Month bear to Sales during Month

(Normal = Average for 1935, 1936)





Retail Trade

Chain Stores

Notwithstanding a considerable reduction in the number of stores in operation, aggregate sales for 30 chain companies in the food retailing field were 8 per cent higher in October, 1939 than in the corresponding month a year ago. There were 1,340 stores operated this October compared with 1,518 units in October, 1938.

Corresponding month comparisons of sales, especially in the grocery and meat trades, reflect not only underlying trends but also differences in the number of business days in different months. The number of Saturdays occuring in any month is also an important consideration. A comparison based on average daily sales, in which account is taken, not only of differences in actual number of days but also of differences in sales importance of different days of the week shows that sales were 17 per cent higher in October of this year than last.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for October, 1938 and 1939
30 Chain Companies

	October, 1938		October, 1939		Per cent change in sales
	No. Stores	Sales	No. Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
Canada	1,518	8,106,216	1,340	8,826,544	+ 8.9
Quebec	309	1,743,879	253	1,860,474	+ 6.7
Ontario	816	4,672,335	727	4,951,469	+ 6.0
Prairie Provinces	237	1,026,244	218	1,173,806	+ 14.4
British Columbia	156	663,758	142	840,795	+ 26.7

Independent Stores

Dollar sales for 1,164 independent grocery and combination stores were 4 per cent lower in October of this year than last, all provinces excepting only Saskatchewan reporting decreased business. Saskatchewan sales were up 2 per cent while declines for other provinces ranged from 1 per cent in Manitoba to 8 per cent for Alberta.

A comparison based on average daily sales taking into consideration differences in number of business days in different months and differences in sales importance of different days of the week shows that average daily sales for independent stores were 3 per cent higher in October of this year than last.

Comparison of Sales Reported for October, 1938 and 1939

Region	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
Maritimes	160	63	- 1.8
Quebec	241	86	- 3.4
Ontario	461	143	- 5.1
Manitoba	79	34	- 0.5
Saskatchewan	51	27	+ 2.2
Alberta	76	26	- 7.6
British Columbia	96	29	- 6.3
CANADA	1,164	408	- 4.0

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Vol. 1. No. 2.

CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, NOVEMBER, 1939

Introduction

Indexes reflecting current trends in food distribution in Canada have been published for some years, indexes of retail and wholesale grocery trading establishments forming components of the two regular monthly bulletins on retail and wholesale trade issued by the Internal Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This new series brings together in one report the information on retail and wholesale grocery sales contained in the other bulletins thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution. This report is the second of the series, the first issue being that for October, 1939.

Wholesale Trade

Sales

Sales of 44 wholesale trading houses in the grocery trade averaged 3 per cent higher in November of this year than last but receded 14 per cent below October, unadjusted indexes on the base 1930=100 standing at 109.5 for November, 1939, 126.7 for October, 1939 and 106.2 for November, 1938. The 3 per cent increase over November a year ago is evidence of an almost complete return to normal buying on the part of the retail grocery trade and is in contrast to margins of 18 and 43 per cent which characterized comparisons of October and September sales with those of corresponding months of 1938.

Indexes of Sales, 1930 = 100

	1939			1938
	November	October	September	November
Unadjusted index	109.5	126.7	164.9	106.2
Seasonally adjusted index	105.6	110.7	146.7	102.4

Results for November varied for different regions of the country, the 3 per cent increase for the Dominion as a whole being the net resultant of decreases in Ontario and Quebec and increases in all other sections. Sales in the Maritimes were up by 7 per cent; the Prairie Provinces 8 per cent, and British Columbia 11 per cent. Declines of 1 per cent and 5 per cent below November 1938 were recorded for Quebec and Ontario respectively.

Percentage Change in Wholesale Sales, by Provinces

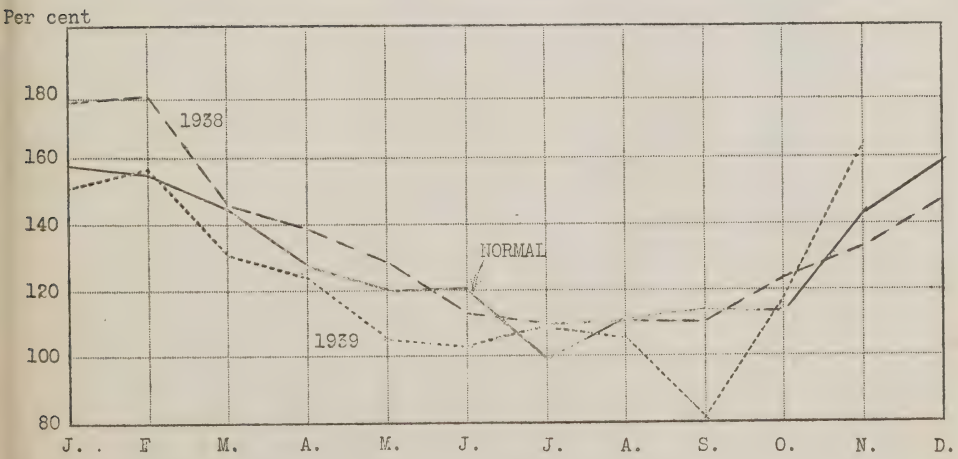
	November Dollar Sales Per cent change from		Year to date	Number of
	November 1938	October 1939	1939/1938	firms reporting
Canada	+ 3.1	-13.6	+7.8	44
Maritimes	+ 7.4	-10.1	+8.3	7
Quebec	- 0.7	-10.6	+6.2	12
Ontario	- 5.2	-14.5	+6.7	10
Prairies	+ 8.4	-15.1	+8.6	9
British Columbia	+11.0	-12.9	+9.1	6

Stocks

Wholesalers' inventories were valued 30 per cent higher at the end of November of this year than last and were up by 5 per cent from October 31, 1939. Stocks on hand at any period are unduly high or low only when considered in relation to sales in the immediately ensuing period. Stocks on hand at the beginning of November normally amount to approximately 140 per cent of November sales. The corresponding ratio for November, 1939 was 164 per cent indicating that stocks on hand at the beginning of the month were considerably in excess of the normal inventory position for that time of year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade:- Percentage that Stocks on Hand at Beginning of Month bear to Sales during Month

(Normal = Average for 1935, 1936)



Chain Stores

Sales of 1,277 chain store units operated by 30 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 21 per cent higher in November, 1939, than the sales of 1,490 units operated by the same 30 firms in the corresponding month of 1938. Increases were greater in the West than in the East. Chain sales in the province of Quebec were up 13 per cent; Ontario 17 per cent; Prairie Provinces 40 per cent and British Columbia 41 per cent.

Results on an avaerage daily sales basis differ but little from those based on calendar month totals. Average daily sales for grocery and meat chains were 22 per cent higher in November, 1939 than in November 1938.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for November, 1938 and 1939
30 Chain Companies

	November, 1938		November, 1939		Per cent change
	No. Stores	Sales	No. Stores	Sales	in sales
		$		$	
Canada	1,490	7,565,045	1,277	9,159,015	+21.1
Quebec	300	1,645,641	239	1,866,972	+13.4
Ontario	796	4,387,110	684	5,145,191	+17.3
Prairie Provinces	237	905,035	217	1,262,951	+39.5
British Columbia	157	627,259	137	883,901	+40.9

Independent Stores

Dollar sales for 1072 independent grocery and combination stores were 1 per cent higher in November 1939 than in 1938. The Maritime Provinces reported an increase of 6 per cent; Saskatchewan sales were up by 4 per cent; British Columbia reported a decline of 4 per cent while results for other regions showed but little change.

Comparison of Sales Reported for November, 1938 and 1939

Region	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
Maritimes	142	95	+5.9
Quebe	229	115	-0.5
Ontario	418	211	+0.5
Manitoba	75	43	+1.9
Saskatchewan	41	24	+4.0
Alberta	72	38	-1.2
British Columbia	95	27	-4.4
CANADA	1,072	553	+0.5

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Statistician:	A.C. Steedman, B.A.

Vol. 1 No. 3

CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, DECEMBER, 1939

Introduction

Indexes reflecting current trends in food distribution in Canada have been published for some years, indexes of retail and wholesale grocery trading establishments forming components of the two regular monthly bulletins on retail and wholesale trade issued by the Internal Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This new series brings together in one report the information on retail and wholesale grocery sales contained in the other bulletins thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution. This report is the third of the series, the first being that for October, 1939.

Wholesale Trade

Sales

Sales of 44 wholesale houses in the grocery trade averaged 5 per cent higher in December, 1939 over December, 1938 but receded 6 per cent below November, unadjusted indexes on the base 1930 equals 100 standing at 103.2 for December, 1939, 109.5 for November, 1939 and 98.8 for December, 1938. The 5 per cent increase over December of the previous year compares with the 3 per cent increase recorded in the November corresponding-month comparison and with margins of 18 and 43 per cent which characterized comparisons of October and September sales with those of corresponding months of 1938.

Indexes of Sales, 1930 = 100

	1939			1938
	December	November	October	December
Unadjusted index	103.2	109.5	126.7	98.8
Seasonally adjusted index	109.0	105.6	110.7	104.3

Results for December varied for different regions of the country, the 5 per cent increase for the Dominion as a whole being the net resultant of increased sales in the Maritimes, Prairies and British Columbia, and practically unchanged sales in Quebec and Ontario. Sales in the Maritime Provinces and British Columbia were up by 6 per cent and the Prairie Provinces, 9 per cent.

Percentage Change in Wholesale Sales, by Provinces

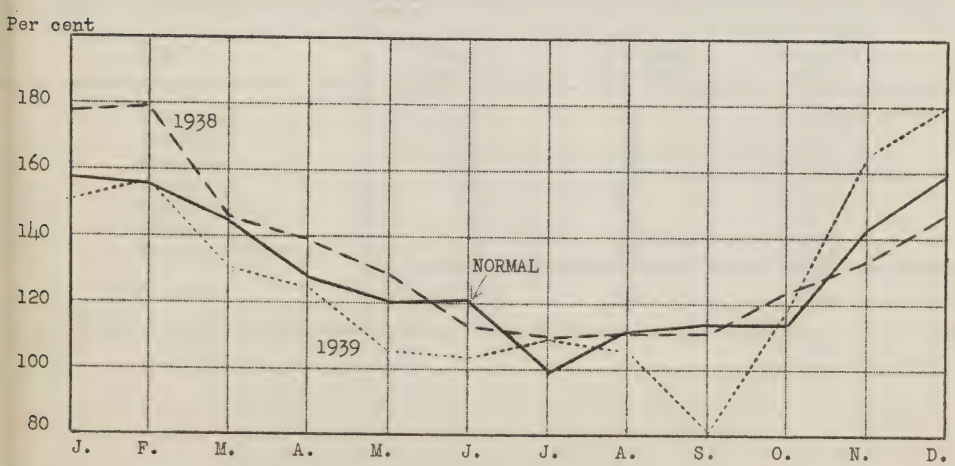
	December Dollar Sales Per cent change from		Calendar year	Number of Firms Reporting
	December 1938	November 1939	1939/1938	
Canada	+ 4.5	- 5.8	+ 7.5	44
Maritimes	+ 6.1	- 5.0	+ 8.1	7
Quebec	- 0.1	- 25.2	+ 5.7	12
Ontario	+ 0.8	+ 3.3	+ 6.2	10
Prairies	+ 8.7	- 7.7	+ 8.6	9
British Columbia	+ 6.3	+ 5.4	+ 8.9	6

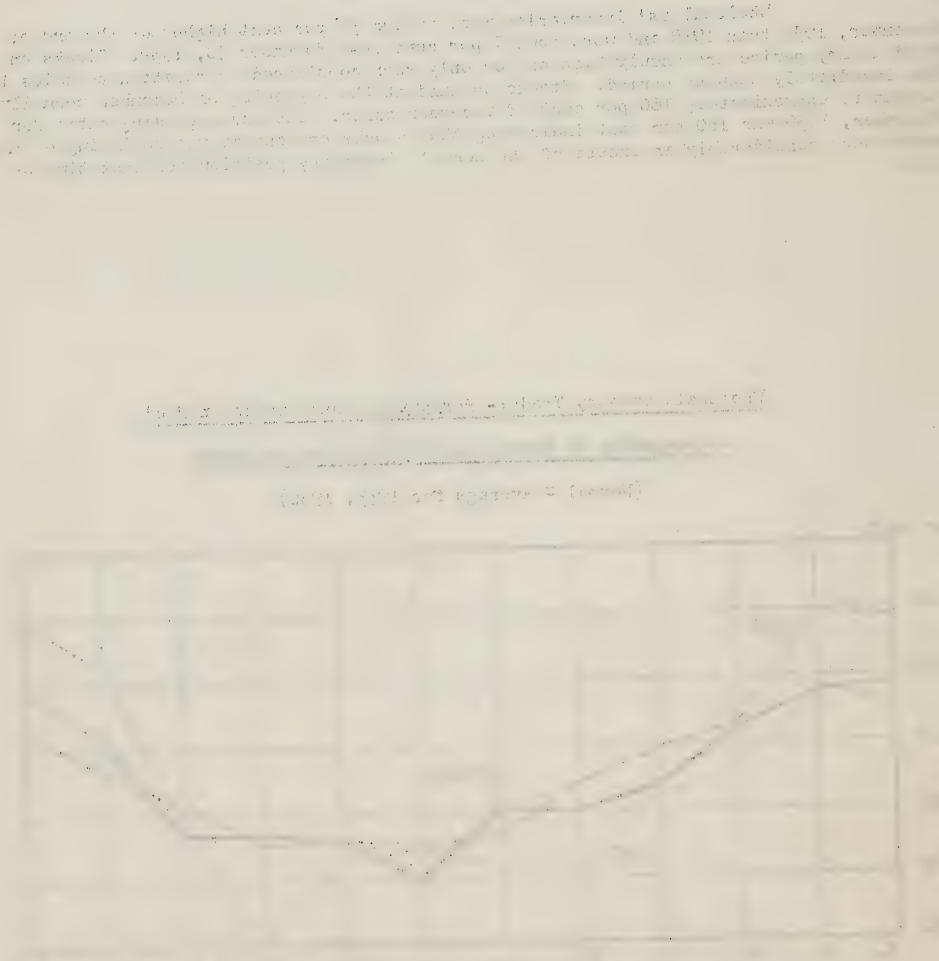
Stocks

Wholesalers' inventories were valued 38 per cent higher at the end of December, 1939 than 1938 and were down 7 per cent from November 30, 1939. Stocks on hand at any period are unduly high or low only when considered in relation to sales in the immediately ensuing period. Stocks on hand at the beginning of December normally amount to approximately 160 per cent of December sales. The corresponding ratio for December, 1939 was 180 per cent indicating that stocks on hand at the beginning of the month were considerably in excess of the normal inventory position for that time of year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade:- Percentage that Stocks on Hand at Beginning of Month bear to Sales during Month

(Normal = Average for 1935, 1936)





Retail Trade

Chain Stores

Sales of 1,181 chain store units operated by 27 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 17 per cent higher in December, 1939, than the sales of 1,395 units operated by the same 27 firms in the corresponding month of 1938. Increases were greater in the West than in the East. Chain sales in the province of Quebec were up 10 per cent; Ontario, 12 per cent; Prairie Provinces, 46 per cent and British Columbia, 58 per cent.

Results on an average daily sales basis differ but little from those based on calendar month totals. Average daily sales for grocery and meat chains were 21 per cent higher in December, 1939 than in December, 1938.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for December, 1938 and 1939

27 Chain Companies

	December, 1938		December, 1939		Per cent change in sales
	No. Stores	Sales	No. Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
Canada	1,395	9,020,350	1,181	10,593,498	+ 17.4
Quebec	297	1,997,547	236	2,202,126	+ 10.2
Ontario	807	5,582,556	690	6,222,340	+ 11.5
Prairie Provinces	164	851,628	150	1,241,241	+ 45.7
British Columbia	127	588,619	105	927,791	+ 57.6

Independent Stores

Dollar sales for 1,108 independent grocery and combination stores were unchanged in December, 1939 compared with December, 1938, gains of 3 per cent in the Maritime Provinces and Saskatchewan being offset by declines of 1 per cent and 4 per cent in Ontario and British Columbia. Results for other regions showed practically no change.

Comparison of Sales Reported for December, 1938 and 1939

Region	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
Maritimes	155	89	+ 3.2
Quebec	243	129	+ 0.7
Ontario	425	181	- 1.4
Manitoba	78	37	+ 0.7
Saskatchewan	42	24	+ 3.3
Alberta	73	36	+ 1.2
British Columbia	92	29	- 4.4
Canada	1,108	525	- 0.2

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, JANUARY, 1940

Introduction

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Wholesale Trade

Sales

Sales of 44 wholesale houses in the grocery trade averaged 28 per cent higher in January, 1940, over January, 1939, and increased 3 per cent above December, 1939, unadjusted indexes on the base 1930 equals 100 standing at 105.6 for January, 1940, 102.9 for December, 1939, and 82.7 for January, 1939. The 28 per cent increase over January of the previous year compares with the 4 per cent increase recorded in the December corresponding month comparison and with margins of 3, 18 and 43 per cent which characterized comparisons of November, October and September sales with those of corresponding months of 1938.

Indexes of Sales, 1930 = 100

	1940	1939		1939
	January	December	November	January
Unadjusted index	105.6	102.9	109.5	82.7
Seasonally adjusted index	125.1	108.7	105.6	98.0

Results for January indicate that wholesale grocery sales were substantially increased in every region of the country but were especially high for Quebec and the Maritimes. Sales in Quebec increased 43 per cent over January a year ago and in the Maritime Provinces 41 per cent. In Ontario sales were up 24 per cent and in the Prairies and British Columbia, 23 per cent.

Percentage Change in Wholesale Sales, by Provinces

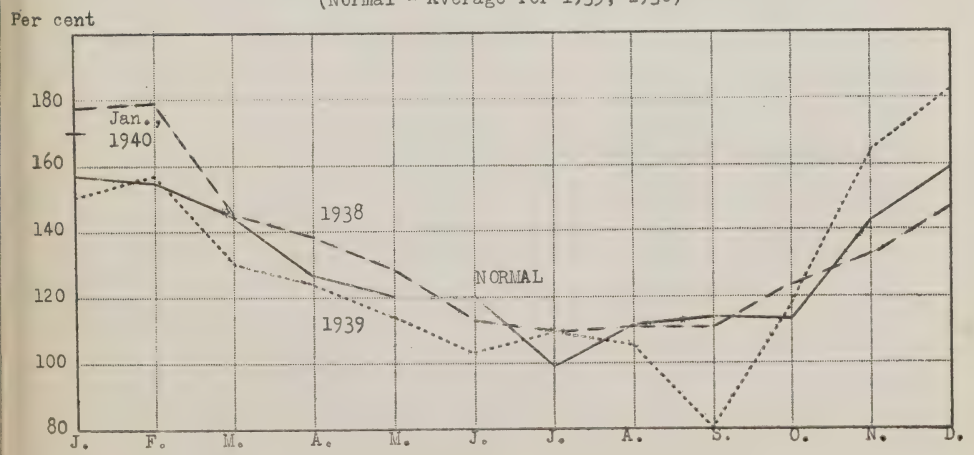
	January Dollar Sales Per cent change from		Number of Firms Reporting
	January 1939	December 1939	
Canada	+ 27.7	+ 2.7	44
Maritimes	+ 40.5	+ 2.7	7
Quebec	+ 42.6	- 3.8	12
Ontario	+ 24.3	+ 2.7	10
Prairies	+ 23.2	+ 2.2	9
British Columbia	+ 23.1	+ 4.2	6

Stocks

Wholesalers inventories were valued 38 per cent higher at the end of January, 1940 than 1939 and were up 4 per cent from December 31st, 1939. Stocks on hand at any period are unduly high or low only when considered in relation to sales in the immediately ensuing period. Stocks on hand at the beginning of January normally amount to approximately 158 per cent of January sales. The corresponding ratio for January, 1940, was 170 per cent, indicating that stocks on hand at the beginning of the month were in excess of normal inventory position for that time of year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade:- Percentage that Stocks on Hand at Beginning of Month bear to Sales during Month

(Normal = Average for 1935, 1936)



Retail Trade

Chain Stores

Sales of 1,223 chain store units operated by 27 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 14 per cent higher in January, 1940, than the sales of 1,450 units operated by the same 27 firms in the corresponding month of 1939. Increases were greater in the West than in the East. Chain sales in the province of Quebec were up 18 per cent; Ontario, 18 per cent; Prairie Provinces, 46 per cent and British Columbia, 54 per cent.

Results on an average daily sales basis differ but little from those based on calendar month totals. Average daily sales for grocery and meat chains were 20 per cent higher in January, 1940, than in January, 1939.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for January, 1939 and 1940

27 Chain Companies

	January, 1939		January, 1940		Per cent change in Sales
	No. Stores	Sales	No. Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
Canada	1,450	7,114,206	1,223	8,789,963	+ 23.6
Quebec	296	1,594,085	236	1,873,424	+ 17.5
Ontario	792	4,284,034	669	5,070,237	+ 18.4
Prairie Provinces	236	745,711	215	1,089,152	+ 46.1
British Columbia.	126	490,376	103	757,150	+ 54.4

Independent Stores

Dollar sales for 1,073 independent grocery and combination stores were 5 per cent higher in January, 1940 compared with January, 1939. Results on a geographical basis indicate that sales increases were recorded in every section of the country and these ranged from the substantial gain of 9 per cent in the Maritimes to the slight increase of 1 per cent in British Columbia. Quebec, Ontario and Saskatchewan sales were up 5 per cent while Manitoba and Alberta sales were up 6 and 4 per cent respectively.

Comparison of Sales Reported for January, 1939 and 1940

Region	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
Maritimes	146	108	+ 8.9
Quebec	230	148	+ 4.6
Ontario	414	264	+ 4.8
Manitoba	81	53	+ 6.3
Saskatchewan	44	33	+ 4.7
Alberta	66	38	+ 4.0
British Columbia	92	42	+ 1.1
Canada	1,073	686	+ 4.8

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, FEBRUARY, 1940

Introduction

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Wholesale Trade

Sales of 77 wholesale houses in the grocery trade advanced 18 per cent higher in February, 1940, over February, 1939, but decreased 7 per cent below January, 1940, unadjusted indexes on the base 1930 equals 100 standing at 97.9 for February, 1940, 105.6 for January, 1940, and 83.1 for February, 1939. The 18 per cent increase over February of the previous year compares with the 28 per cent increase recorded in the January corresponding-month comparison and with margins of 4, 3, 18 and 43 per cent which characterized comparisons of December, November, October and September sales with those of corresponding months of 1938.

Indexes of Sales, 1930 = 100

	1940		1939	
	February	January	December	February
Unadjusted index	97.9	105.6	102.9	83.1
Seasonally adjusted index	116.8	125.1	108.7	99.2

Results for February indicate that wholesale grocery sales were substantially increased in every region of the country but were especially high for the Prairie Provinces and the Maritimes. Sales in the Prairies increased 27 per cent over February a year ago and in the Maritime Provinces 20 per cent. In Quebec sales were up 15 per cent, in Ontario 13 per cent, and in British Columbia 12 per cent.

Percentage Change in Wholesale Sales, by Provinces

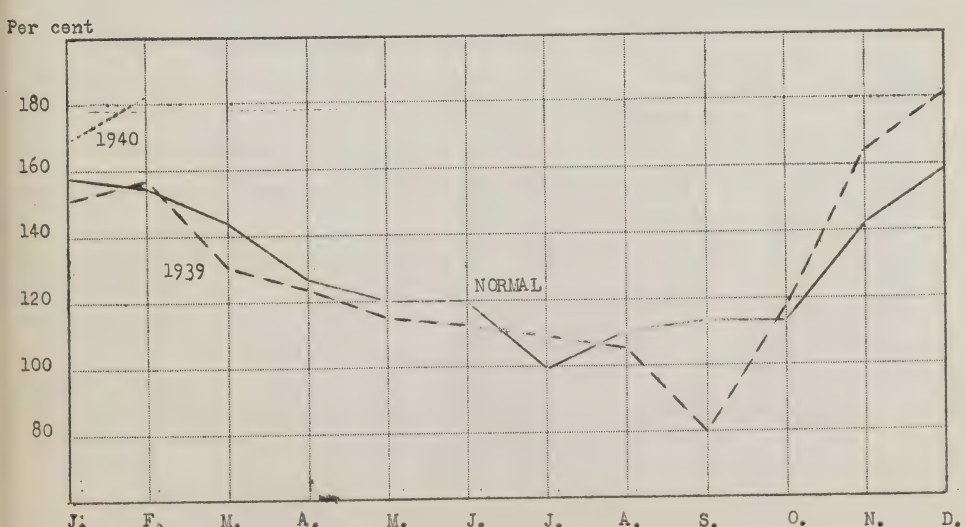
	February Dollar Sales Per cent change from		Year to date 1940 / 1939	Number of Firms Reporting
	February 1939	January 1940		
Canada	+ 17.8	- 7.4	+ 22.7	77
Maritimes	+ 19.6	- 15.4	+ 30.2	15
Quebec	+ 15.1	- 5.3	+ 27.5	22
Ontario	+ 12.5	- 9.1	+ 18.2	21
Prairies	+ 27.0	+ 0.8	+ 25.1	13
British Columbia	+ 12.3	- 12.0	+ 17.8	6

Stocks

Wholesalers' inventories were valued 38 per cent higher at the end of February, 1940 than 1939 but were down 3 per cent from January 31st, 1940. Stocks on hand at any period are unduly high or low only when considered in relation to sales in the immediately ensuing period. Stocks on hand at the beginning of February normally amount to approximately 155 per cent of February sales. The corresponding ratio for February, 1940, was 182 per cent, indicating that stocks on hand at the beginning of the month were in excess of the normal inventory position for that time of year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade:- Percentage that Stocks on Hand at Beginning of Month bear to Sales during Month

(Normal = Average for 1935, 1936)



Retail Trade

Chain Stores

Sales of 1,177 chain store units operated by 29 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 26 per cent higher in February, 1940, than the sales of 1,371 units operated by the same 29 firms in the corresponding month of 1939. Increases were greater in the West than in the East. Chain sales in the province of Quebec were up 17 per cent; Ontario, 20 per cent; Prairie Provinces, 59 per cent and British Columbia, 57 per cent. Average daily sales for grocery and meat chains were 22 per cent higher in February, 1940, than in February, 1939.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for February, 1939 and 1940

29 Chain Companies

	February, 1939		February, 1940		Per cent change in Sales
	No. Stores	Sales	No. Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
Canada	1,371	7,209,517	1,177	9,083,492	+ 26.0
Quebec	277	1,632,793	224	1,911,708	+ 17.1
Ontario	739	4,275,160	629	5,115,515	+ 19.7
Prairie Provinces	204	718,861	189	1,140,318	+ 58.6
British Columbia	151	582,703	135	915,951	+ 57.2

Independent Stores

Dollar sales for 1,076 independent grocery and combination stores were 6 per cent higher in February, 1940, compared with February, 1939. Results on a geographical basis indicate that sales increases were recorded in every section of the country; these ranged from a substantial gain of 12 per cent in the Maritimes to an increase of 3 per cent in Manitoba. Alberta sales were up 10 per cent, Ontario, 6 per cent, while Quebec and Saskatchewan both had sales gains of 5 per cent. Sales in British Columbia were up 4 per cent.

Comparison of Sales Reported for February, 1939 and 1940

	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
Maritimes	147	112	+ 11.9
Quebec	234	157	+ 4.8
Ontario	427	279	+ 5.8
Manitoba	78	52	+ 2.6
Saskatchewan	38	23	+ 4.8
Alberta	66	42	+ 10.0
British Columbia	86	55	+ 4.4
Canada	1,076	720	+ 6.1

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, MARCH, 1940

Introduction

Indexes reflecting current trends in food distribution in Canada have been published for some years, indexes of retail and wholesale grocery trading establishments forming components of the two regular monthly bulletins on retail and wholesale trade issued by the Internal Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This series brings together in one report the information on retail and wholesale grocery sales contained in the other bulletins thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution. This report is the sixth of the series, the first being that for October, 1939.

Wholesale Trade

Sales of 77 wholesale houses in the grocery trade averaged 1 per cent higher in March, 1940 over March, 1939 and 1 per cent over February, 1940, unadjusted indexes, on the base 1930 equals 100, standing at 98.9 for March, 1940, 97.6 for February, 1940 and 97.6 for March, 1939. The 1 per cent increase over March of the previous year compared with the 18 per cent increase recorded in the February corresponding-month comparison and with the margin of 28 per cent recorded in January over January of 1939.

Indexes of Sales, 1930 = 100

	1940			1939
	March	February	January	March
Unadjusted index	98.9	97.6	105.6	97.6
Seasonally adjusted index	107.4	116.5	125.1	106.0

Results for March varied for different regions of the country, the 1 per cent increase for the Dominion as a whole being the net resultant of increased sales in the Maritimes, British Columbia and Ontario, decreased sales in Quebec and practically unchanged sales in the Prairie Provinces. Sales in the Maritimes increased 10 per cent over March a year ago in British Columbia, 4 per cent, and in Ontario, 1 per cent. In Quebec a 3 per cent drop in sales was recorded.

Percentag Change in Wholesale Sales, by Provinces

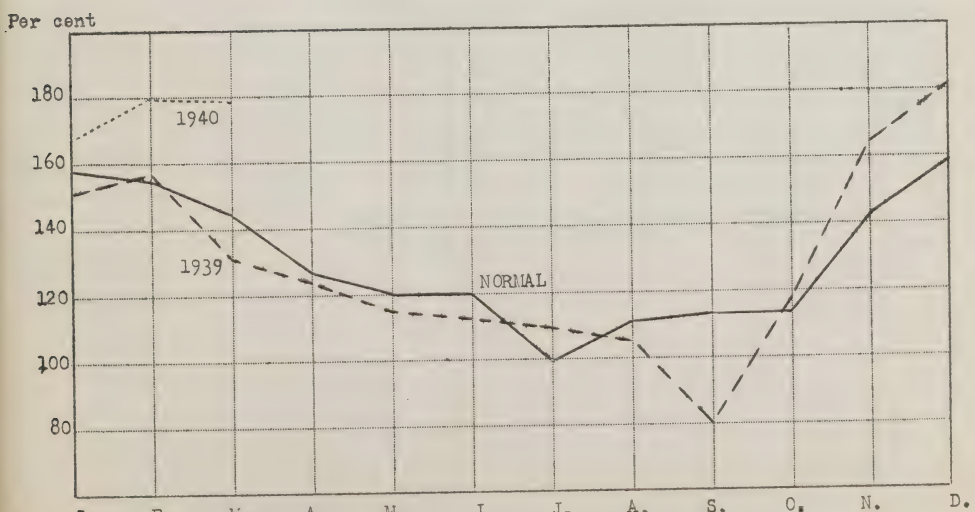
	March Dollar Sales Per cent change from		Year to date 1940/1939	Number of Firms Reporting
	March 1939	February 1940		
Canada	+ 1.3	+ 1.2	+ 14.7	77
Maritimes	+ 9.6	+ 11.3	+ 22.1	15
Quebec	- 3.1	+ 2.1	+ 15.4	22
Ontario	+ 1.1	+ 2.7	+ 11.9	21
Prairies	+ 0.5	- 6.3	+ 15.8	13
British Columbia	+ 3.7	+ 10.0	+ 12.6	6

Stocks

Wholesalers' inventories were valued 34 per cent higher at the end of March, 1940 than 1939 but were down 10 per cent from February 29th, 1940. Stocks on hand at any period are unduly high or low only when considered in relation to sales in the immediately ensuing period. Stocks on hand at the beginning of March normally amount to approximately 145 per cent of March sales. The corresponding ratio for March, 1940, was 178 per cent, indicating that stocks on hand at the beginning of the month were in excess of the normal inventory position for that time of year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade:- Percentage that Stocks on Hand at Beginning of Month bear to Sales during Month

(Normal = Average for 1935, 1936)



Retail Trade

Chain Stores

Sales of 1,239 chain store units operated by 30 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 25 per cent higher in March, 1940, than the sales of 1,424 units operated by the same 30 firms in the corresponding month of 1939. Increases were greater in the West than in the East. Chain sales in the province of Quebec were up 14 per cent; Ontario, 19 per cent; Prairie Provinces, 52 per cent and British Columbia, 71 per cent. Average daily sales for grocery and meat chains were 26 per cent higher in March, 1940, than in March, 1939.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for March, 1939 and 1940

30 Chain Companies

	March, 1939		March, 1940		Per cent change in Sales
	No. Stores	Sales $	No. Stores	Sales $	
Canada	1,424	8,302,437	1,239	10,386,145	+ 25.1
Quebec	262	1,860,915	217	2,126,622	+ 14.3
Ontario	778	4,952,521	668	5,886,418	+ 18.9
Prairie Provinces	244	933,045	232	1,420,437	+ 52.2
British Columbia	140	555,956	122	952,668	+ 71.4

Independent Stores

Dollar sales for 1,107 independent grocery and combination stores were 8 per cent higher in March, 1940, compared with March, 1939. Results on a geographical basis indicate that sales increases were recorded in every section of the country; these ranged from a substantial gain of 17 per cent in the Maritimes to an increase of 5 per cent in British Columbia. Alberta sales were up 9 per cent, Quebec and Manitoba 8 per cent, and Ontario and Saskatchewan 7 per cent.

Comparison of Sales Reported for March, 1939 and 1940

	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
Maritimes	153	129	+ 17.3
Quebec	238	172	+ 7.6
Ontario	431	296	+ 6.7
Manitoba	80	55	+ 7.8
Saskatchewan	44	35	+ 6.7
Alberta	69	47	+ 8.6
British Columbia	92	52	+ 4.5
Canada	1,107	786	+ 8.2

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, APRIL, 1940

Introduction

Indexes reflecting current trends in food distribution in Canada have been published for some years, indexes of retail and wholesale grocery trading establishments forming components of the two regular monthly bulletins on retail and wholesale trade issued by the Internal Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This series brings together in one report the information on retail and wholesale grocery sales contained in the other bulletins thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution. This report is the seventh of the series, the first being that for October, 1939.

Wholesale Trade

Sales of 77 wholesale houses in the grocery trade averaged 15 per cent higher in April, 1940 over April, 1939 and 11 per cent over March, 1940, unadjusted indexes, on the base 1930 equals 100, standing at 109.4 for April, 1940, 99.0 for March, 1940 and 95.3 for April, 1939. The 15 per cent increase over April of the previous year compared with the 1 per cent increase recorded in the March corresponding-month comparison and with margins of 18 per cent and 28 per cent recorded in February and January over the same months of 1939.

Indexes of Sales, 1930 = 100

	1940			1939
	April	March	February	April
Unadjusted index	109.4	99.0	97.6	95.3
Seasonally adjusted index	117.6	107.5	116.5	102.5

Results for April indicate that wholesale grocery sales were substantially increased in every region of the country but were especially high for the Maritime provinces and Quebec. Sales in the Maritimes increased 24 per cent over April a year ago and in Quebec, 23 per cent. In British Columbia sales were up 14 per cent, in Ontario, 13 per cent and in the Prairie provinces, 11 per cent.

Percentage Change in Wholesale Sales, by Provinces

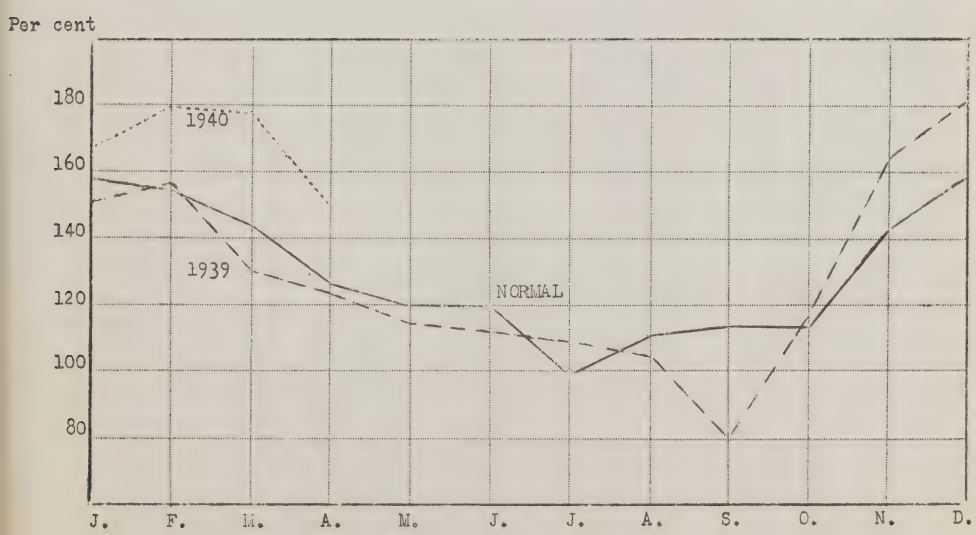
	April Dollar Sales Per cent change from		Year to date 1940	Number of Firms Reporting
	April 1939	March 1940	1939	
Canada	+ 14.8	+ 10.5	+ 14.8	77
Maritimes	+ 24.1	+ 6.9	+ 22.7	15
Quebec	+ 22.9	+ 20.8	+ 17.4	22
Ontario	+ 12.7	+ 12.0	+ 12.1	21
Prairies	+ 10.9	+ 7.0	+ 14.5	13
British Columbia	+ 13.6	+ 5.8	+ 12.9	6

Stocks

Wholesalers' inventories were valued 30 per cent higher at the end of April, 1940 than 1939 but were down 1 per cent from March 30th, 1940. Stocks on hand at any period are unduly high or low only when considered in relation to sales in the immediately ensuing period. Stocks on hand at the beginning of April normally amount to approximately 127 per cent of April sales. The corresponding ratio for April, 1940, was 150 per cent, indicating that stocks on hand at the beginning of the month were in excess of the normal inventory position for that time of year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade:- Percentage that Stocks on Hand at Beginning of Month bear to Sales during Month

(Normal = Average for 1935, 1936)



Retail Trade

Chain Stores

Sales of 1,181 chain store units operated by 31 chain companies in he food retailing field averaged 14 per cent higher in April, 1940, than the sales of ,375 units operated by the same 31 firms in the corresponding month of 1939. Increases ere greater in the West than in the East. Chain sales in the province of Quebec were p 4 per cent; Ontario, 9 per cent; Prairie Provinces, 34 per cent and British Columbia, 7 per cent. Average daily sales for grocery and meat chains were 15 per cent higher in pril, 1940, than in April, 1939.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for April, 1939 and 1940

31 Chain Companies

	April, 1939		April, 1940		Per cent change in Sales
	No. Stores	Sales $	No. Stores	Sales $	
Canada	1,375	8,311,831	1,181	9,444,758	+ 13.6
Quebec	257	1,792,687	209	1,864,347	+ 4.0
Ontario	774	5,053,401	665	5,482,807	+ 8.5
Prairie Provinces	228	909,895	215	1,222,443	+ 34.3
British Columbia	116	555,848	101	875,161	+ 57.4

Independent Stores

Dollar sales for 1,066 independent grocery and combination stores were 1 per cent higher in April, 1940, compared with April, 1939. Results on a geographical basis indicate that sales increases were recorded in the Eastern half of the country and decreases in the Western sections. These ranged from a gain in the Maritimes of 6 per cent to a decrease of 3 per cent in Saskatchewan. Ontario sales were up by 2 per cent, while Alberta and Manitoba reported decreases of 1 and 2 per cent. Sales in Quebec and British Columbia were unchanged from April a year ago.

Comparison of Sales Reported for April, 1939 and 1940

	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
Maritimes	144	104	+ 6.2
Quebec	233	114	+ 0.3
Ontario	419	228	+ 1.7
Manitoba	73	24	- 1.8
Saskatchewan	38	15	- 2.5
Alberta	69	31	- 1.0
British Columbia	90	42	- 0.1
Canada	1,066	558	+ 1.2

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, MAY, 1940

Introduction

Indexes reflecting current trends in food distribution in Canada have been published for some years, indexes of retail and wholesale grocery trading establishments forming components of the two regular monthly bulletins on retail and wholesale trade issued by the Internal Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This series brings together in one report the information on retail and wholesale grocery sales contained in the other bulletins thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution.

Wholesale Trade

Sales of 77 wholesale houses in the grocery trade averaged 25 per cent higher in May, 1940 than in May, 1939 and 24 per cent over April, 1940, unadjusted indexes, on the base 1930 equals 100, standing at 134.8 for May, 1940, 108.8 for April, 1940 and 108.1 for May, 1939. The 25 per cent increase over May of the previous year compared with a 14 per cent increase recorded in the April corresponding-month comparison and with margins of 1 per cent and 18 per cent recorded in March and February over the same months of 1939. Sales for the year to date average 17 per cent above the corresponding five-month period of 1939.

Indexes of Sales, 1930 = 100

	1940			1939
	May	April	March	May
Unadjusted index	134.8	108.8	99.0	108.1
Seasonally adjusted index	137.0	117.0	107.5	109.9

All sections of the country shared in the increase over May a year ago, results for the various economic divisions showing increases of 23 per cent in the Maritime Provinces, 26 per cent in Quebec, 20 per cent in Ontario, 29 per cent in the Prairie Provinces and 28 per cent in British Columbia.

Percentage Change in Wholesale Sales, by Provinces

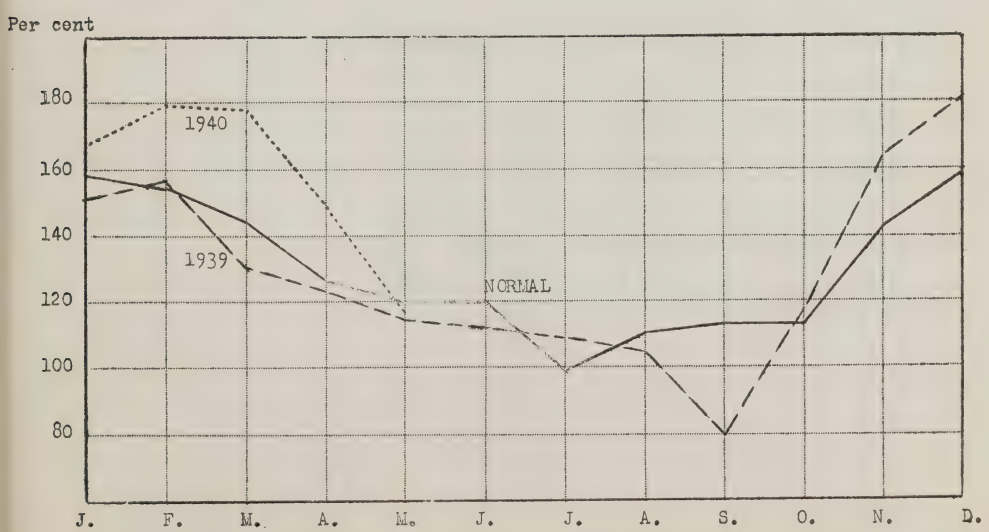
	May Dollar Sales Per cent change from		Year to date 1940 1939	Number of Firms Reporting
	May 1939	April 1940		
Canada	+ 24.7	+ 23.9	+ 17.0	77
Maritimes	+ 22.6	+ 25.1	+ 22.6	15
Quebec	+ 25.5	+ 35.8	+ 19.6	22
Ontario	+ 19.7	+ 18.0	+ 13.8	21
Prairies	+ 28.7	+ 28.1	+ 17.1	13
British Columbia	+ 28.1	+ 22.6	+ 16.3	6

Stocks

Inventories carried by the wholesale grocery trade were 38 per cent higher at the end of May than on the corresponding date of 1939 and were 10 per cent higher than at the end of April, 1940. Stocks on hand at any period must be considered in relation to the sales in the immediately following period. Stocks on hand at the beginning of May normally amount to approximately 120 per cent of the May turnover. The ratio of stocks on hand at the end of April, 1940 formed 117 per cent of May sales indicating that in relation to sales realized during the month, stocks on hand were slightly below normal.

Wholesale Grocery Trade:- Percentage that Stocks on Hand at Beginning of Month bear to Sales during Month

(Normal = Average for 1935, 1936)



Retail Trade

Chain Stores

Sales of 1,104 chain store units operated by 27 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 26 per cent higher in May, 1940, than the sales of 1,281 units operated by the same 27 firms in the corresponding month of 1939. Increases were greater in the West than in the East. Chain sales in the province of Quebec were up 23 per cent; Ontario, 22 per cent; Prairie Provinces, 35 per cent and British Columbia, 49 per cent. Average daily sales for grocery and meat chains were 24 per cent higher in May, 1940, than in May, 1939.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for May, 1939 and 1940

27 Chain Companies

	May, 1939		May, 1940		Per cent change in Sales
	No. Stores	Sales	No. Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
Canada	1,281	8,154,561	1,104	10,271,707	+ 26.0
Quebec	251	1,699,188	208	2,093,317	+ 23.2
Ontario	709	4,769,574	609	5,805,067	+ 21.7
Prairie Provinces	197	988,915	177	1,334,555	+ 35.0
British Columbia	124	696,884	110	1,038,768	+ 49.1

Independent Stores

Dollar sales of 1,048 independent grocery and combination stores were 7 per cent higher in May, 1940 compared with May, 1939. Results on a geographical basis indicate that sales increases were recorded in every section of the country ranging from a substantial gain of 12 per cent in Saskatchewan to a gain of 4 per cent in British Columbia. Manitoba and the Maritimes reported increases of 9 per cent, Ontario and Alberta, 7 per cent, while Quebec sales were up by 6 per cent.

Comparison of Sales Reported for May, 1939 and 1940

	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
Maritimes	146	108	+ 9.2
Quebec	225	160	+ 6.3
Ontario	409	289	+ 6.7
Manitoba	73	50	+ 8.2
Saskatchewan	40	30	+ 11.9
Alberta	63	46	+ 7.4
British Columbia	92	52	+ 3.7
Canada	1,048	735	+ 6.9

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, JUNE, 1940

Introduction

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Wholesale Trade

Sales of 77 wholesale houses in the grocery trade averaged 9 per cent higher in June, 1940, than in June, 1939, but were 9 per cent lower than the level of May, 1940, unadjusted indexes on the base, 1930 = 100, standing at 122.4 for June, 1940; 135.0 for May, 1940; and 112.3 for June, 1939. The 9 per cent increase over June of the previous year compares with a 25 per cent increase recorded in the May corresponding-month comparison and with margins of 14 and 1 per cent recorded in April and March over the same months of 1939. Sales for the first six months of this year average 15 per cent higher than for the corresponding six-month period of 1939.

Indexes of Sales, 1930 = 100

	1940			1939
	June	May	April	June
Unadjusted index	122.4	135.0	108.8	112.3
Seasonally adjusted index	120.0	137.2	117.0	110.1

All sections of the country shared in the increase over June a year ago, results for the various economic divisions showing increases of 13 per cent in the Maritime Provinces, 11 per cent in Quebec, 10 per cent in Ontario, 8 per cent in the Prairie Provinces, and 2 per cent in British Columbia.

Percentage Change in Wholesale Sales, by Provinces

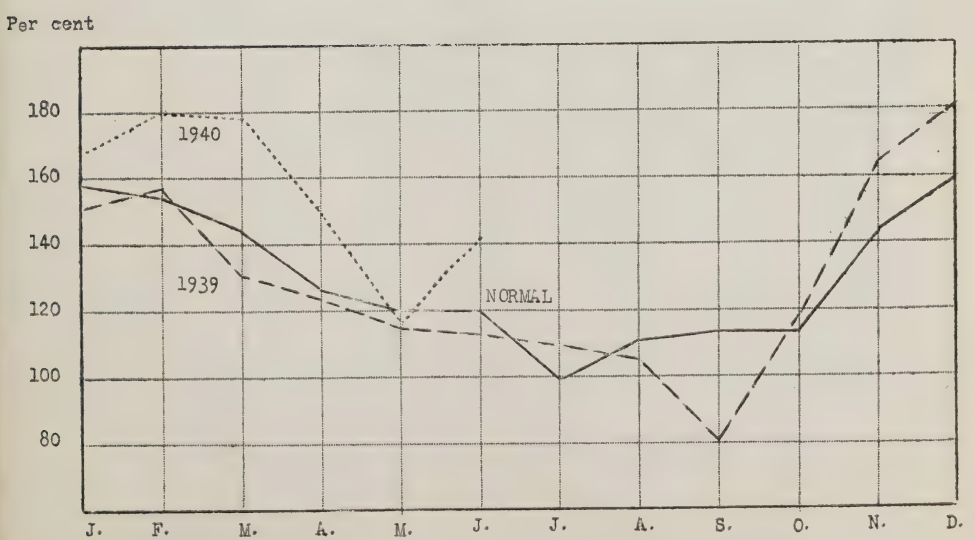
	June Dollar Sales Per cent change from		Year to date 1940 / 1939	Number of Firms Reporting
	June 1939	May 1940		
CANADA	+ 9.0	- 9.4	+ 15.4	77
Maritimes	+ 12.7	- 11.5	+ 20.6	15
Quebec	+ 11.0	- 22.4	+ 18.2	22
Ontario	+ 9.5	+ 2.8	+ 13.0	21
Prairies	+ 7.9	- 12.5	+ 15.4	13
British Columbia	+ 2.1	- 15.7	+ 13.6	6

Stocks

Inventories carried by the wholesale grocery trade were 39 per cent higher at the end of June than on the corresponding date of 1939, but were 1 per cent lower than at the end of May, 1940. Stocks on hand at any period must be considered in relation to the sales in the immediately following period. Stocks on hand at the beginning of June normally amount to approximately 120 per cent of the June turnover. The ratio of stocks on hand at the end of May, 1940, formed 143 per cent of June sales indicating that stocks on hand at the beginning of the month were in excess of the normal inventory position for that time of year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade:--Percentage that Stocks on Hand at Beginning of Month bear to Sales during Month

(Normal = Average for 1935, 1936)





Retail Trade

Chain Stores

Sales of 1,161 chain store units operated by 26 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 14 per cent higher in June, 1940, than the sales of 1,333 units operated by the same 26 firms in the corresponding month of 1939. Chain sales in the province of British Columbia were up 17 per cent; Ontario, 16 per cent; Prairie Provinces, 12 per cent; and Quebec, 10 per cent. Average daily sales for grocery and meat chains were 11 per cent higher in June, 1940, than in June, 1939.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for June, 1939 and 1940

26 Chain Companies

	June, 1939		June, 1940		Per cent change in Sales
	No. Stores	Sales	No. Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	1,333	9,214,207	1,161	10,479,384	+ 13.7
Quebec	245	1,747,412	201	1,886,018	+ 7.9
Ontario	745	5,301,085	649	6,122,066	+ 15.5
Prairie Provinces	199	1,244,267	179	1,391,370	+ 11.8
British Columbia	144	921,443	132	1,079,930	+ 17.2

Independent Stores

Dollar sales of 1,066 independent grocery and combination stores were 5 per cent higher in June, 1940, compared with June, 1939. Results on a geographical basis indicate that sales increases were recorded in every section of the country, ranging from a gain of 7 per cent in the Maritimes and Alberta to one of 3 per cent in British Columbia. Quebec and Manitoba reported increases of 6 per cent while Ontario and Saskatchewan were the same with a gain of 4 per cent.

Comparison of Sales Reported for June, 1939 and 1940

	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per Cent change in sales
Maritimes	151	117	+ 7.3
Quebec	239	158	+ 6.1
Ontario	414	261	+ 3.7
Manitoba	70	47	+ 6.1
Saskatchewan	41	27	+ 4.3
Alberta	64	40	+ 6.6
British Columbia	87	42	+ 3.1
CANADA	1,066	692	+ 5.0

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, JULY, 1940

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Wholesale Trade

Sales of 77 wholesale grocery houses were unchanged in July, 1940, from July, 1939, but were 8 per cent lower than the level of June, 1940, unadjusted indexes on the base, 1930 = 100, standing at 112.1 for July, 1940; 122.0 for June, 1940; 135.0 for May, 1940; and 112.3 for July, 1939. In all months in 1940 previous to July, increases were recorded over the corresponding months of 1939. In June, the margin was 9 per cent, in May, 25 per cent, and in April, 14 per cent. Dollar value of sales for the first seven months of this year averaged 13 per cent higher than for the corresponding seven-month period of 1939.

Indexes of Sales, 1930 = 100

	1940			1939
	July	June	May	July
Unadjusted index	112.1	122.0	135.0	112.3
Seasonally adjusted index	98.8	119.6	137.2	98.9

The trends in the five economic divisions of the country were widely varied and ranged from an increase in sales of 11 per cent in the Maritime Provinces to a decrease of 7 per cent in British Columbia. Quebec reported a gain of 9 per cent, Ontario 1 per cent, while the Prairie Provinces were down 6 per cent from July a year ago.

Percentage Change in Wholesale Sales, by Provinces

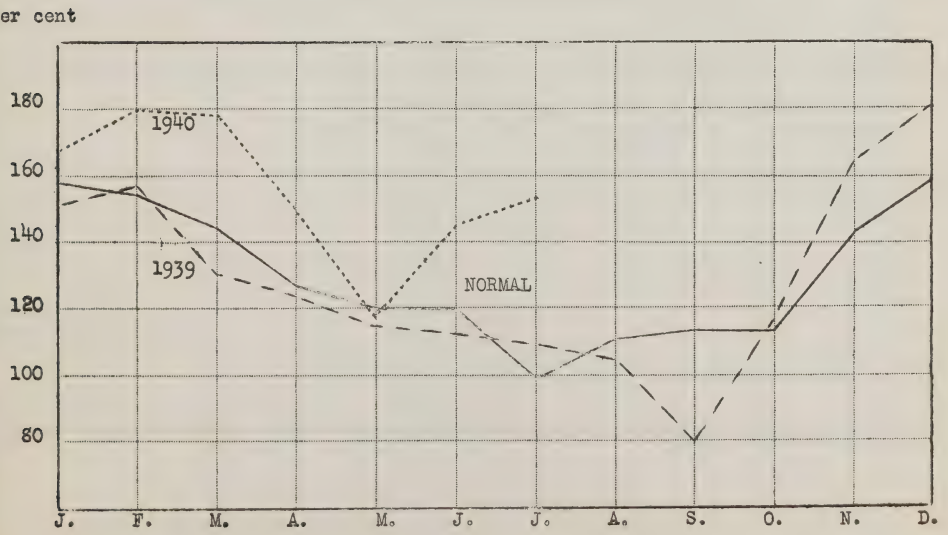
	July Dollar Sales Per cent change from		Year to date 1940 / 1939	Number of Firms Reporting
	July 1939	June 1940		
CANADA	- 0.2	- 8.1	+ 12.8	77
Maritimes	+ 10.9	+ 1.8	+ 19.0	15
Quebec	+ 8.7	- 3.6	+ 16.9	22
Ontario	+ 1.0	- 14.2	+ 11.0	21
Prairies	- 6.3	- 6.9	+ 11.7	13
British Columbia ...	- 7.0	- 7.9	+ 10.3	6

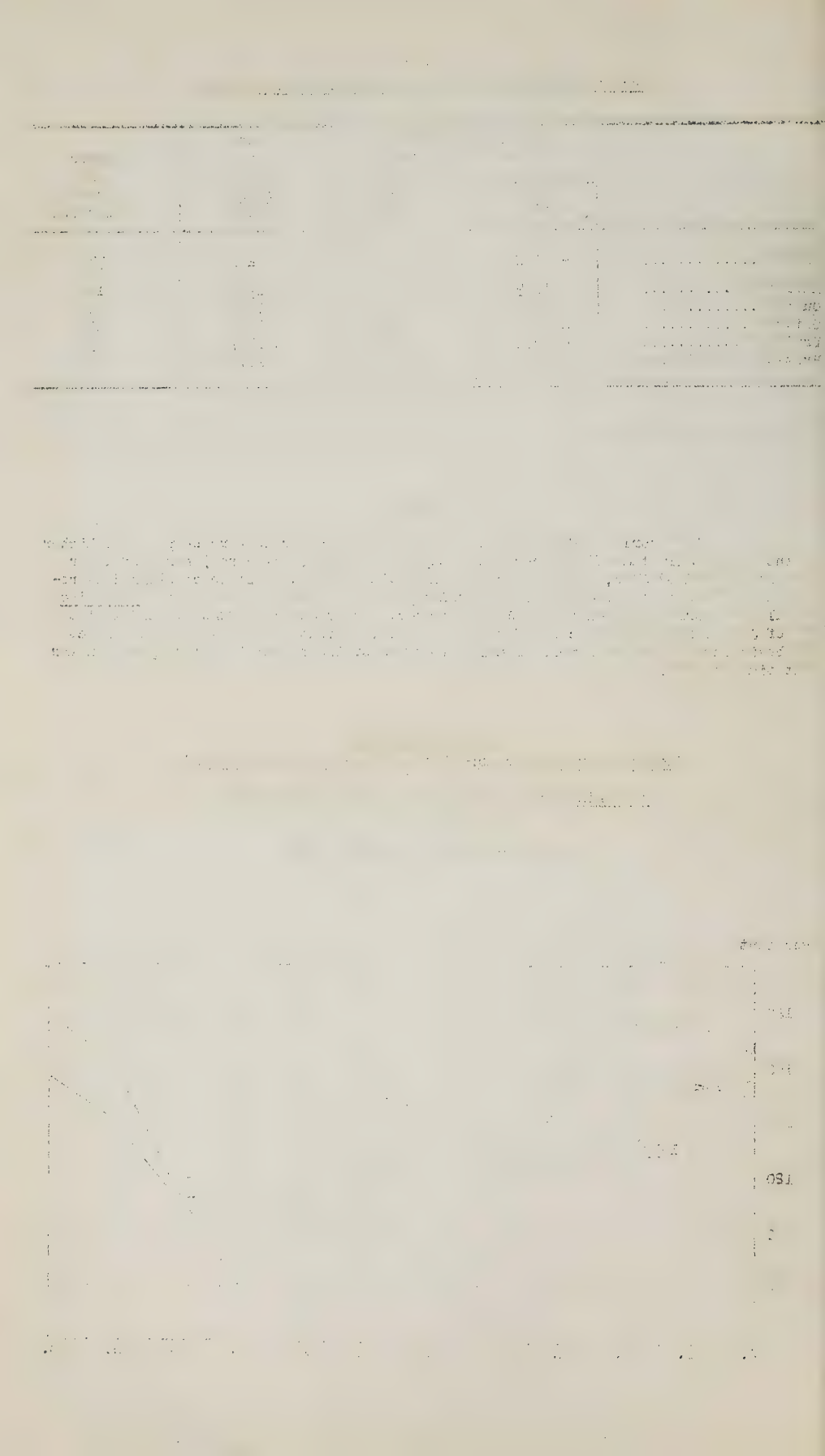
Stocks

Inventories carried by the wholesale grocery trade were 24 per cent higher at the end of July than on the corresponding date of 1939, but were 7 per cent lower than at the end of June, 1940. Stocks on hand at any period must be considered in relation to sales in the immediately following period. Stocks on hand at the beginning of July are normally equal to the July turnover. The rates of stocks on hand at the end of June formed 152 per cent of the July sales, indicating that stocks on hand at the beginning of the month were greatly in excess of the normal inventory position for that time of year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade:--Percentage that Stocks on Hand at Beginning of Month bear to Sales during Month

(Normal = Average for 1935, 1936)





Retail Trade

Chain Stores

Sales of 1,081 chain store units operated by 26 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 23 per cent higher in July, 1940, than the sales of 1,253 units operated by the same 26 firms in the corresponding month of 1939. Chain sales in the province of British Columbia were up 35 per cent; Ontario, 23 per cent; Quebec, 21 per cent; and the Prairie Provinces, 19 per cent. Average daily sales for grocery and meat chains were 19 per cent higher in July, 1940, than in July, 1939.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for July, 1939 and 1940

26 Chain Companies

	JULY, 1939		JULY, 1940		Per cent change in Sales
	No. Stores	Sales	No. Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	1,253	7,445,967	1,081	9,154,520	+ 22.9
Quebec	252	1,507,662	209	1,823,168	+ 20.9
Ontario	732	4,340,706	633	5,332,570	+ 22.9
Prairie Provinces	156	973,851	141	1,155,809	+ 18.7
British Columbia	113	623,748	98	842,973	+ 35.1

Independent Stores

Dollar sales of 1,035 independent grocery and combination stores were 5 per cent higher in July, 1940, compared with July, 1939. Results on a geographical basis indicate that sales increases were recorded in every section of the country, ranging from a gain of 11 per cent in Manitoba to one of 3 per cent in Quebec. The Maritimes reported an increase of 7 per cent, British Columbia, 6 per cent; and Alberta, 5 per cent. Saskatchewan and Ontario were the same with a gain of 4 per cent over July, 1939.

Comparison of Sales Reported for July, 1939 and 1940

	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per Cent change in sales
Maritimes	154	105	+ 7.1
Quebec	220	117	+ 2.9
Ontario	401	253	+ 4.0
Manitoba	68	56	+ 10.8
Saskatchewan	42	27	+ 3.5
Alberta	63	41	+ 4.7
British Columbia	87	46	+ 5.5
CANADA	1,035	645	+ 4.7

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, AUGUST, 1940

Introduction

Indexes reflecting current trends in food distribution in Canada have been published for some years, indexes of retail and wholesale grocery trading establishments forming components of the two regular monthly bulletins on retail and wholesale trade issued by the Internal Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This series brings together in one report the information on retail and wholesale grocery sales contained in the other bulletins thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution.

Wholesale Trade

Sales of 77 wholesale grocery houses average 1 per cent higher in August, 1940 than in August, 1939 and were 8 per cent above the level of July, 1940, unadjusted indexes on the base 1930 equals 100 standing at 121.1 for August, 1940; 112.3 for July, 1940; 122.0 for June, 1940; and 120.0 for August, 1939. The 1 per cent increase over July of the previous year compared with unchanged sales in the July corresponding-month comparison and with increases of 9 per cent and 25 per cent in June and May over the same months of the previous year. Dollar value of sales for the first eight months of this year averaged 11 per cent higher than for the corresponding eight-month period of 1939.

The trends in the five economic divisions of the country were widely varied and ranged from an increase in sales of 16 per cent in British Columbia to a decrease of 4 per cent in the Prairies. The Maritimes reported a gain of 5 per cent, Quebec 2 per cent, while Ontario reported a fractional increase of only 0.5 per cent.

Percentage Change in Wholesale Sales, by Provinces

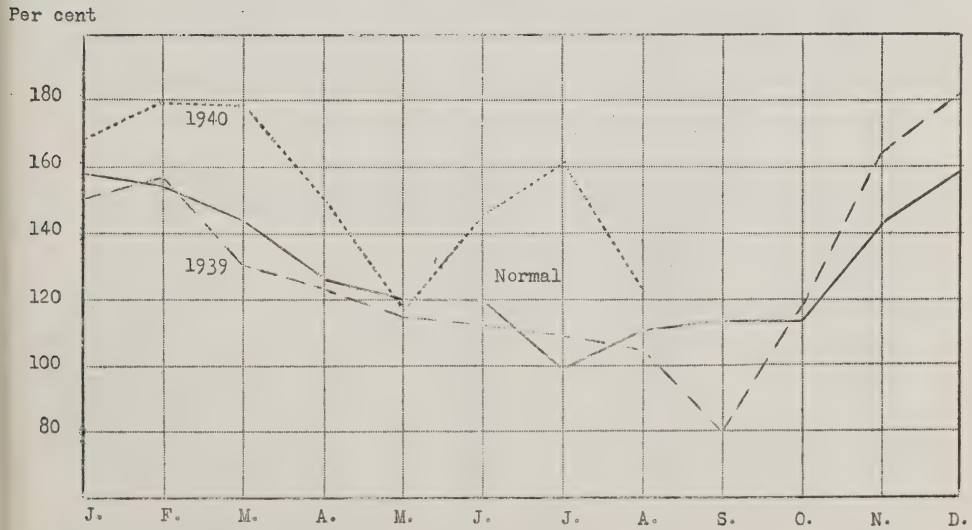
	August Dollar Sales Per cent change from		Year to date	Number of Firms
	August 1939	July 1940	1940 1939	Reporting
CANADA	+ 0.9	+ 7.9	+ 11.1	77
Maritimes	+ 4.9	- 0.7	+ 16.9	15
Quebec	+ 1.9	- 1.5	+ 14.8	22
Ontario	+ 0.5	+ 0.9	+ 9.5	21
Prairies	- 3.7	+ 19.7	+ 9.2	13
British Columbia	+ 15.7	+ 20.1	+ 11.0	6

Stocks

Inventories carried by the wholesale grocery trade were 18 per cent higher at the end of August than on the corresponding date of 1939, but were 4 per cent lower than at the end of July, 1940. Stocks on hand at any period must be considered in relation to sales in the immediately following period. Stocks on hand at the beginning of August normally amount to approximately 111 per cent of the August turnover. Stocks on hand at the end of July formed 124 per cent of the August sales, indicating that stocks on hand at the beginning of the month were still in excess of the normal inventory position for that time of year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade:--Percentage that Stocks on Hand at Beginning of Month bear to Sales during Month

(Normal = Average for 1935, 1936)



Retail Trade

Chain Stores

Sales of 1,155 chain store units operated by 28 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 28 per cent higher in August, 1940, than the sales of 1,328 units operated by the same 28 firms in the corresponding month of 1939. Chain sales in the province of British Columbia were up 35 per cent; Quebec and Ontario, 29 per cent; and the Prairie Provinces, 17 per cent. Average daily sales for grocery and meat chains were 18 per cent higher in August, 1940, than in August, 1939.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for August, 1939 and 1940

28 Chain Companies

	August, 1939		August, 1940		Per cent change in Sales
	No. Stores	Sales $	No. Stores	Sales $	
CANADA	1,328	8,044,792	1,155	10,278,421	+ 27.8
Quebec	251	1,523,512	209	1,960,268	+ 28.7
Ontario	737	4,503,558	639	5,805,718	+ 28.9
Prairie Provinces	197	1,203,319	177	1,413,298	+ 17.4
British Columbia	143	814,403	130	1,099,137	+ 35.0

Independent Stores

Dollar sales of 1,046 independent grocery and combination stores were 14 per cent higher in August, 1940 than in August, 1939. Results on a geographical basis indicate that sales increases were recorded in every section of the country, ranging from a gain of 18 per cent in the Maritimes to one of 9 per cent in Saskatchewan and British Columbia. Ontario reported an increase of 14 per cent; Alberta, 11 per cent; and Quebec and Manitoba were the same with a gain of 13 per cent.

Comparison of Sales Reported for August, 1939 and 1940

	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per Cent change in sales
Maritimes	150	131	+ 17.8
Quebec	228	181	+ 12.6
Ontario	406	343	+ 14.0
Manitoba	76	61	+ 13.4
Saskatchewan	38	32	+ 9.3
Alberta	67	53	+ 11.1
British Columbia	81	59	+ 9.3
CANADA	1,046	860	+ 13.5

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, SEPTEMBER, 1940

Introduction

Indexes reflecting current trends in food distribution in Canada have been published for some years, indexes of retail and wholesale grocery trading establishments forming components of the two regular monthly bulletins on retail and wholesale trade issued by the Internal Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This series brings together in one report the information on retail and wholesale grocery sales contained in the other bulletins thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution.

Wholesale Trade

Sales of 77 wholesale grocery houses averaged 27 per cent lower in September, 1940 than in September, 1939 but were practically unchanged from the level of August, 1940, unadjusted indexes, on the base 1930 equals 100, standing at 119.9 for September, 1940; 120.6 for August, 1940; 112.3 for July, 1940 and 104.9 for September, 1939. Heavy inventory buying by the retail trade reached an unusually high level in September, 1939 and, while wholesale sales in September, 1940 have decreased 27 per cent they are still 4 per cent above the level of September, 1938. The dollar value of sales for the first nine months of 1940 averaged 5 per cent higher than for the corresponding nine-month period of the previous year.

September sales of wholesale grocery firms, when examined by regions, indicate that declines were general throughout the Dominion. In the Maritimes sales dropped 22 per cent below the level of September a year ago; in Ontario and the Prairies sales decreased 26 per cent; in British Columbia, 31 per cent; while in Quebec the drop amounted to 32 per cent.

Percentage Change in Wholesale Sales, by Provinces

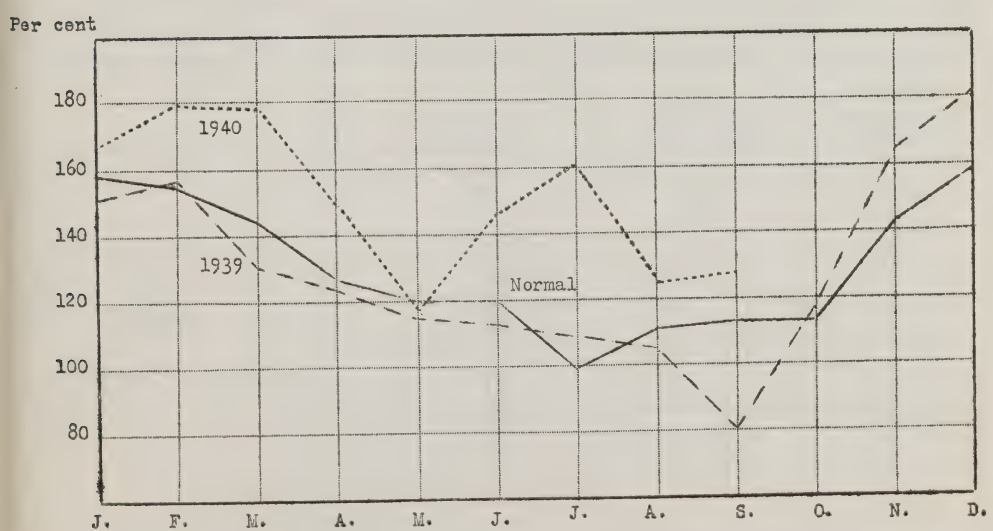
	September Dollar Sales Per cent change from		Year to date 1940 1939	Number of Firms Reporting
	September 1939	August 1940		
CANADA	- 27.3	- 0.6	+ 4.6	77
Maritimes	- 22.4	+ 2.8	+ 10.2	15
Quebec	- 31.5	+ 4.1	+ 6.3	22
Ontario	- 26.0	+ 3.2	+ 3.7	21
Prairies	- 26.2	- 3.5	+ 3.2	13
British Columbia	- 31.2	- 6.4	+ 3.1	6

Stocks

Inventories carried by the wholesale grocery trade were 5 per cent higher at the end of September than on the corresponding date of 1939, but were 1 per cent lower than at the end of August, 1940. Stocks on hand at any period must be considered in relation to sales in the immediately following period. Stocks on hand at the beginning of September normally amount to approximately 114 per cent of the September turnover. Stocks on hand at the end of August formed 127 per cent of the September sales, indicating that stocks on hand at the beginning of the month were still in excess of the normal inventory position for that time of year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade:--Percentage that Stocks on Hand at Beginning of Month bear to Sales during Month

(Normal = Average for 1935, 1936)



Retail Trade

Chain Stores

Sales of 1,105 chain store units operated by 29 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 8 per cent lower in September, 1940 than the sales of 1,268 units operated by the same 29 firms in the corresponding month of 1939. Chain sales in the province of British Columbia were down 3 per cent; Ontario, 6 per cent; the Prairie Provinces, 12 per cent. Average daily sales for grocery and meat chains were 3 per cent higher in September, 1940 than in September, 1939.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for September, 1939 and 1940

29 Chain Companies

	September, 1939		September, 1940		Per cent change in Sales
	No. Stores	Sales $	No. Stores	Sales $	
CANADA	1,268	10,043,868	1,105	9,244,264	- 8.0
Quebec	252	2,142,889	211	1,859,083	- 13.2
Ontario	720	5,660,342	634	5,323,467	- 6.0
Prairie Provinces	154	1,281,997	134	1,132,419	- 11.7
British Columbia	142	958,640	126	929,295	- 3.1

Independent Stores

Dollar sales of 1,048 independent grocery and combination stores were 9 per cent lower in September, 1940 than in September, 1939. Results on a geographical basis indicate that sales decreases were recorded in every section of the country ranging from a decline of 3 per cent in the Maritimes to one of 12 per cent in the three most westerly provinces, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. Quebec reported a decline of 8 per cent; Ontario and Manitoba were the same with a decline of 10 per cent.

Comparison of Sales Reported for September, 1939 and 1940

	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
Maritimes	153	67	- 3.0
Quebec	223	56	- 7.5
Ontario	399	103	- 9.5
Manitoba	73	15	- 10.1
Saskatchewan	43	5	- 12.1
Alberta	67	17	- 12.0
British Columbia	90	23	- 11.6
CANADA	1,048	286	- 8.5

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, OCTOBER, 1940

Introduction

Indexes reflecting current trends in food distribution in Canada have been published for some years, indexes of retail and wholesale grocery trading establishments forming components of the two regular monthly bulletins on retail and wholesale trade issued by the Internal Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This series brings together in one report the information on retail and wholesale grocery sales contained in the other bulletins thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution.

Wholesale Trade

Sales of 74 wholesale houses in the grocery trade averaged 10 per cent higher in October, 1940 than in October, 1939 and were 16 per cent above the level of September, 1940, unadjusted indexes on the base 1930 equals 100 standing at 139.2 for October, 1940, 120.2 for September, 1940 and 126.7 for October, 1939. The 10 per cent increase over October of the previous year compares with a 27 per cent decline in the September corresponding-month comparison and with practically unchanged sales in August and July from the same months in 1939. Sales for the first ten months of the current year average 5 per cent higher than for the corresponding ten-month period of last year.

All sections of the country shared in the increase over October a year ago, results for the various economic divisions showing increases of 18 per cent in the Maritimes, 15 per cent in Quebec, 13 per cent in Ontario, 6 per cent in British Columbia and 2 per cent in the Prairies.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

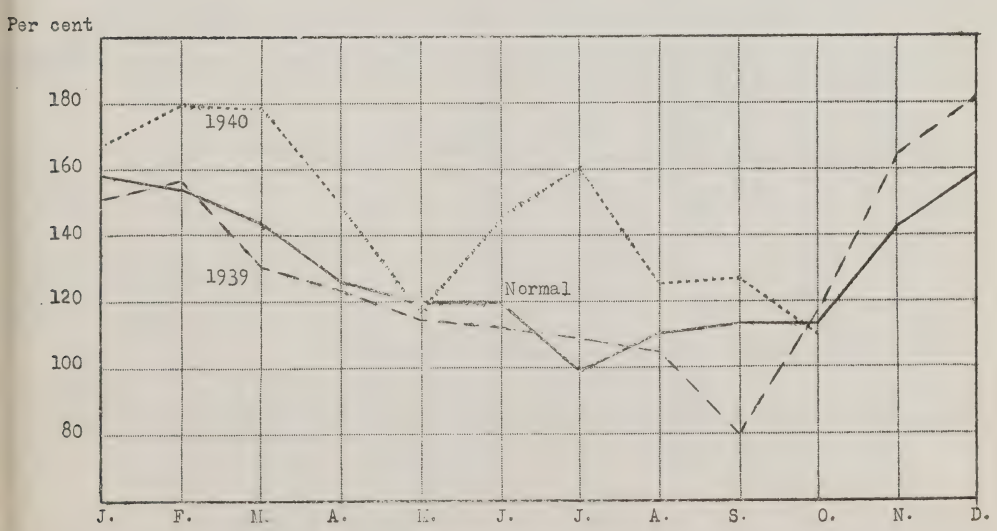
Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change		
				October, 1940 over -		Year to date 1940/1939
		October 1939	October 1940	October 1939	September 1940	
		$	$			
CANADA	74	15,668	17,220	+ 9.9	+ 15.9	+ 5.2
Maritimes	16	1,663	1,966	+ 18.2	+ 18.0	+ 11.1
Quebec	21	2,903	3,334	+ 14.8	+ 40.6	+ 7.6
Ontario	21	4,432	5,018	+ 13.2	+ 9.7	+ 4.7
Prairies	10	4,727	4,835	+ 2.3	+ 9.0	+ 3.1
British Columbia	6	1,943	2,067	+ 6.4	+ 12.7	+ 3.4

Stocks

Inventories carried by the wholesale grocery trade were 5 per cent lower at the end of October than on the corresponding date of 1939, but were 13 per cent higher than at the end of September, 1940. Stocks on hand at any period must be considered in relation to sales in the immediately following period. Stocks on hand at the beginning of October normally amount to approximately 113 per cent of the October turnover. Stocks on hand at the end of September formed 110 per cent of the October sales, indicating that stocks on hand at the beginning of the month were slightly lower than the normal inventory position for that time of year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade--Percentage that Stocks on Hand at Beginning of Month bear to Sales during Month

(Normal = Average for 1935, 1936)



Retail Trade

Chain Stores

Sales of 1,153 chain store units operated by 29 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 22 per cent higher in October, 1940 than sales of 1,320 units operated by the same 29 firms in the corresponding month of 1939. Chain sales in the province of British Columbia were up 27 per cent; Ontario, 25 per cent; the Prairie Provinces, 24 per cent and Quebec, 12 per cent. Average daily sales for grocery and meat chains were 18 per cent higher in October, 1940 than in October, 1939.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for October, 1939 and 1940

29 Chain Companies

	October, 1939		October, 1940		Per cent change in Sales
	No. Stores	Sales	No. Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	1,320	8,814,076	1,153	10,789,129	+ 22.4
Quebec	249	1,817,833	208	2,039,433	+ 12.2
Ontario	720	4,918,959	631	6,151,846	+ 25.1
Prairie Provinces ..	229	1,278,207	210	1,583,002	+ 23.8
British Columbia ...	122	799,077	104	1,014,848	+ 27.0

Independent Stores

Dollar sales of 1,046 independent grocery and combination stores were 11 per cent higher in October, 1940 than in October, 1939. Results on a geographical basis indicate that sales increases were recorded in every section of the country ranging from a gain of 14 per cent in the Maritimes to one of 1 per cent in Saskatchewan. Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia were the same with a gain of 11 per cent, while Alberta sales were up 9 per cent and Manitoba, 7 per cent.

Comparison of Sales Reported for October, 1939 and 1940

	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
Maritimes	153	123	+ 14.1
Quebec	222	180	+ 11.2
Ontario	404	330	+ 11.2
Manitoba	73	55	+ 6.9
Saskatchewan	42	24	+ 1.3
Alberta	67	47	+ 8.7
British Columbia	85	64	+ 11.4
CANADA	1,046	823	+ 10.9

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, NOVEMBER, 1940.

Introduction

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Wholesale Trade

Sales of 75 wholesale houses in the grocery trade averaged 15 per cent higher in November, 1940 than in November 1939 but were 10 per cent below the level of October 1940, unadjusted indexes on the base 1930 equals, as standing at 125.4 for November, 1940, 139.9 for October, 1940 and 109.5 for November, 1939. The 15 per cent increase over November, 1939 compares with a gain of 10 per cent in the October corresponding month comparison and with a decline of 27 per cent in September. In August and July sales were unchanged from the corresponding months of 1939. Sales for 1940 to date average 6 per cent higher than for the eleven-month period January - November, 1939.

All sections of the country shared in the increase over November a year ago, results for the various economic divisions showing increases of 22 per cent in the Maritimes, 18 per cent in Ontario, 13 per cent in Quebec and 11 per cent in British Columbia and in the Prairie Provinces.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

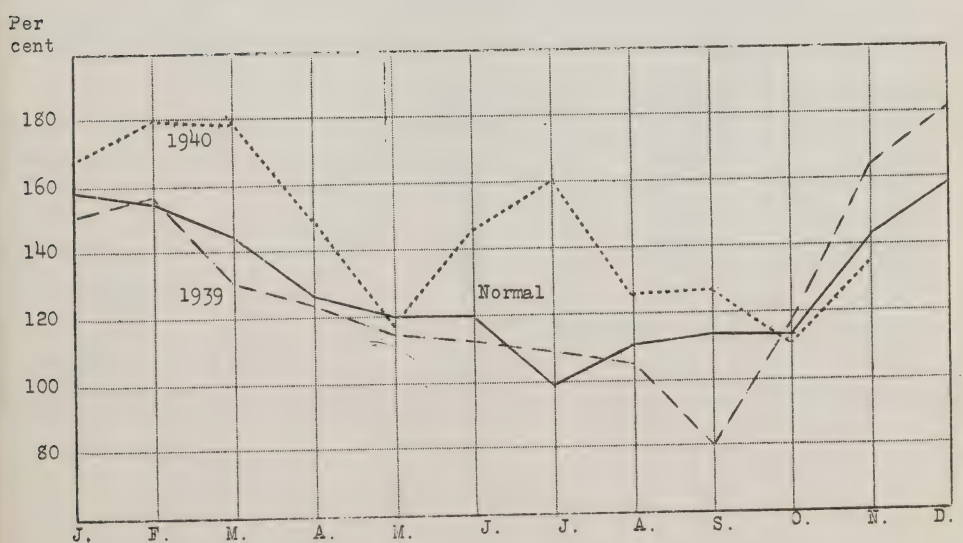
Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change		
				November, 1940 over -		Year to date 1940/1939
		November 1939	November 1940	November 1939	October 1940	
		$	$			
CANADA	75	13,760	15,762	+ 14.5	- 10.4	+ 6.1
Maritimes.....	15	1,475	1,806	+ 22.4	- 6.9	+ 12.2
Quebec.....	21	2,488	2,817	+ 13.2	- 12.0	+ 8.2
Ontario.....	21	3,890	4,600	+ 18.2	- 10.3	+ 5.8
Prairies.....	12	4,276	4,725	+ 10.5	- 8.9	+ 3.8
British Columbia..	6	1,631	1,814	+ 11.2	- 13.2	+ 4.6

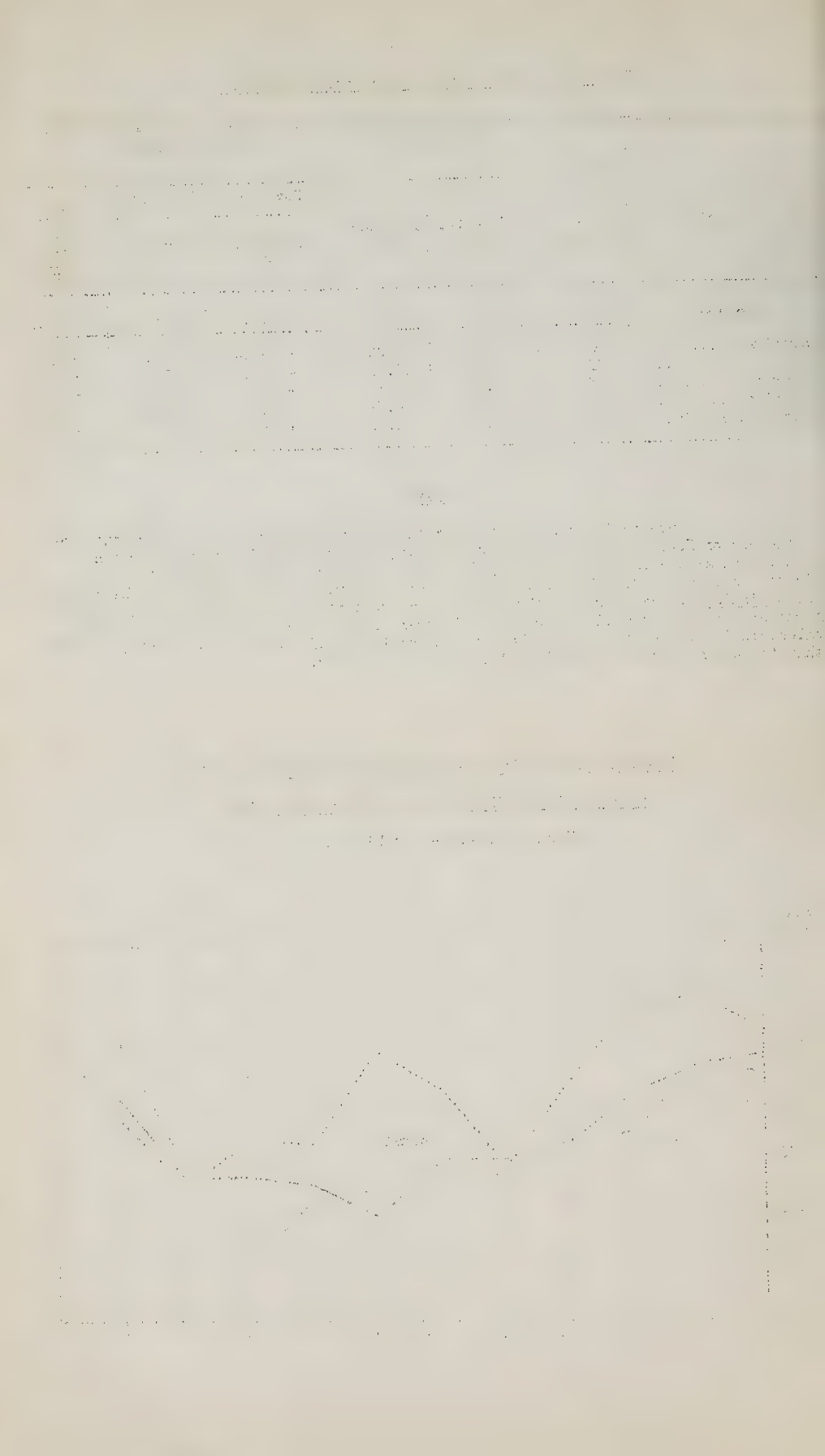
Stocks

Inventories carried by the wholesale grocery trade were 4 per cent lower at the end of November than on the corresponding date of 1939, but were 7 per cent higher than at the end of October, 1940. Stocks on hand at any period must be considered in relation to sales in the immediately following period. Stocks on hand at the beginning of November normally amount to approximately 143 per cent of the November turnover. Stocks on hand at the end of October formed 136 per cent of the November sales, indicating that stocks on hand at the beginning of the month were slightly lower than the normal inventory position for that time of year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade -- Percentage that Stocks on Hand at beginning of Month bear to Sales during Month

(Normal = Average for 1935, 1936)





Retail Trade

Chain Stores

Sales of 1,089 chain store units operated by 30 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 26 per cent higher in November, 1940 than sales of 1,223 units operated by the same 30 firms in the corresponding month of 1939. Chain sales in the province of British Columbia were up 30 per cent; Ontario, 28 per cent; Quebec, 22 per cent and the Prairie Provinces, 18 per cent. Average daily sales for grocery and meat chains were 17 per cent higher in November, 1940 than in November, 1939.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for November, 1939 and 1940

30 Chain Companies

	November, 1939		November, 1940		Per cent change in Sales
	No. Stores	Sales	No. Stores	Sales	
CANADA	1,223	9,147,466	1,089	11,479,525	+ 25.5
Quebec	243	1,910,928	209	2,329,101	+ 21.9
Ontario	650	5,131,946	589	6,564,895	+ 27.9
Prairie Provinces ..	213	1,257,217	188	1,488,319	+ 18.4
British Columbia ...	117	847,375	103	1,097,210	+ 29.5

Independent Stores

Dollar sales of 999 independent grocery and combination stores were 14 per cent higher in November, 1940 than in November, 1939. Results on a geographical basis indicate sales increases in every section of the country ranging from a gain of 19 per cent in the Maritimes to one of 8 per cent in Manitoba. British Columbia and Ontario were the same with a gain of 15 per cent, while Quebec and Saskatchewan each reported an increase of 13 per cent. Alberta sales showed a gain of 11 per cent in November, 1940 over the same month in 1939.

Comparison of Sales Reported for November, 1939 and 1940

	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
Maritimes	148	130	+ 19.2
Quebec	212	178	+ 12.6
Ontario	392	341	+ 14.6
Manitoba	72	54	+ 8.3
Saskatchewan	36	28	+ 12.5
Alberta	63	48	+ 10.5
British Columbia	76	63	+ 15.1
CANADA	999	842	+ 14.1

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, DECEMBER, 1940

Introduction

Indexes reflecting current trends in food distribution in Canada have been published for some years, indexes of retail and wholesale grocery trading establishments forming components of the two regular monthly bulletins on retail and wholesale trade issued by the Internal Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This series brings together in one report the information on retail and wholesale grocery sales contained in the other bulletins thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution.

Wholesale Trade

Sales of 72 wholesale firms in the grocery trade averaged 17 per cent higher in December, 1940 than in December, 1939 but were 5 per cent below the level of November, 1940, unadjusted indexes on the base 1930 equals 100 standing at 120.0 for December, 1940, 125.8 for November, 1940 and 102.9 for December, 1939. The 17 per cent increase in sales over December of 1939 compares with gains of 15 per cent in November and 10 per cent in October over the same months of the previous year. Sales for the calendar year 1940 average 7 per cent higher than for the calendar year 1939.

All sections of the country shared in the substantial increase over December a year ago, results for the various economic divisions showing increases of 25 per cent in British Columbia, 20 per cent in Ontario, 16 per cent in the Maritimes, 14 per cent in Quebec and 11 per cent in the Prairies.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

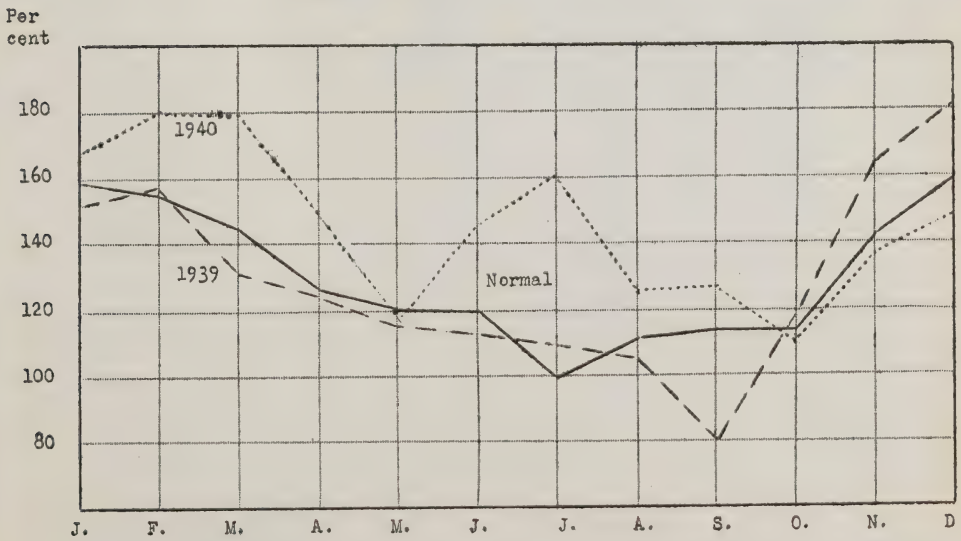
Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change		
				December, 1940 over -		Calendar year
		December 1939	December 1940	December 1939	November 1940	1940 / 1939
		$	$			
CANADA	72	12,655	14,754	+ 16.6	- 4.7	+ 7.0
Maritimes	15	1,460	1,693	+ 16.0	- 9.5	+ 12.5
Quebec	21	1,872	2,124	+ 13.5	- 25.6	+ 8.8
Ontario	21	3,967	4,764	+ 20.1	+ 4.9	+ 6.9
Prairies	9	3,642	4,038	+ 10.9	- 7.5	+ 4.4
British Columbia .	6	1,714	2,135	+ 24.5	+ 14.9	+ 6.2

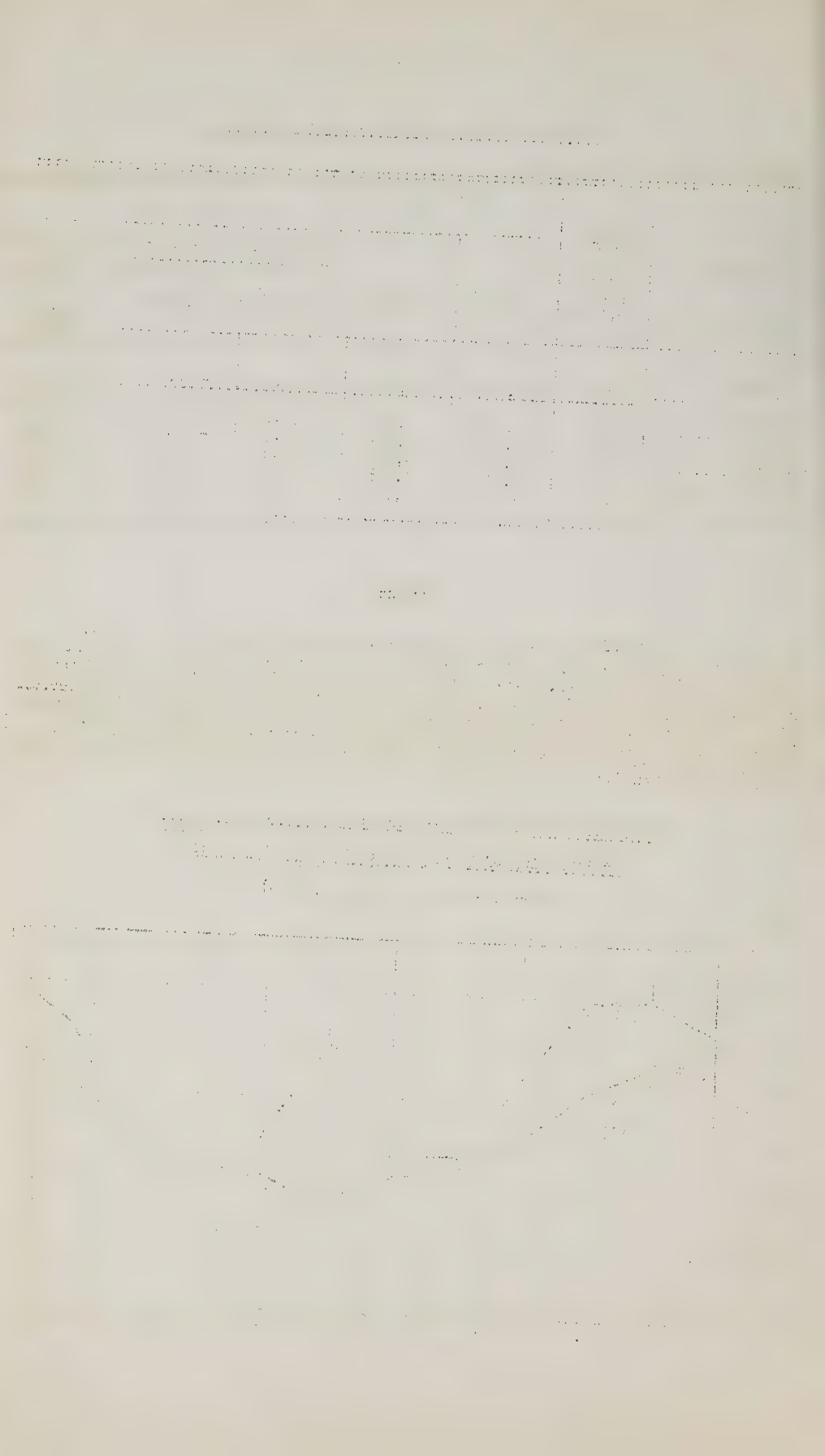
Stocks

Inventories carried by the wholesale grocery trade were 2 per cent higher at the end of December than on the corresponding date of 1939, but were 2 per cent lower than at the end of November, 1940. Stocks on hand at any period must be considered in relation to sales in the immediately following period. Stocks on hand at the beginning of December normally amount to approximately 159 per cent of the December turnover. Stocks on hand at the end of November formed 149 per cent of the December sales, indicating that stocks on hand at the beginning of the month were slightly lower than the normal inventory position for that time of year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade -- Percentage that Stocks on Hand at Beginning of Month bear to Sales during Month

(Normal = Average for 1935, 1936)





Retail Trade

Chain Stores

Sales of 1,078 chain store units operated by 27 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 6 per cent higher in December, 1940, than sales of 1,202 units operated by the same 27 firms in the corresponding month of 1939. Chain sales in the province of British Columbia were up 11 per cent. There was one more Saturday in December, 1939 than in 1940. On making allowance for this factor a decrease of one per cent occurred in Quebec. Average daily sales for grocery and meat chains were 17 per cent higher in December, 1940 than in December, 1939.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for December, 1939 and 1940

27 Chain Companies

	December, 1939		December, 1940		Per cent change in Sales
	No. Stores	Sales	No. Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	1,202	10,818,000	1,078	11,476,964	+ 6.1
Quebec	240	2,254,742	209	2,239,479	- 0.7
Ontario	685	6,293,310	631	6,836,873	+ 8.6
Prairie Provinces ...	160	1,228,947	135	1,249,792	+ 1.7
British Columbia	117	1,041,001	103	1,150,820	+ 10.5

Independent Stores

Dollar sales of 1,041 independent grocery and combination stores were 3 per cent higher in December, 1940 than in December, 1939. Results on a geographical basis indicate sales increases in every section of the country except Saskatchewan and Alberta. The Maritimes were highest with a gain of 6 per cent, and Ontario and British Columbia showed an increase of 4 per cent. While Quebec increased 2 per cent, Manitoba and Alberta remained practically unchanged. Saskatchewan sales reported a decrease of 4 per cent.

Comparison of Sales Reported for December, 1939 and 1940

	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
Maritimes	151	100	+ 6.1
Quebec	227	114	+ 1.6
Ontario	400	260	+ 4.2
Manitoba	72	38	+ 1.1
Saskatchewan	43	21	- 3.8
Alberta	66	35	- 0.7
British Columbia	82	49	+ 3.6
CANADA	1,041	617	+ 3.0

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, JANUARY, 1941

Introduction

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Wholesale Trade

Sales of 71 of the larger wholesale grocery firms in Canada averaged 2 per cent higher in January, 1941 than in January, 1940 but were 11 per cent below the level of December, 1940, unadjusted indexes on the base, average for 1935 - 1939 equals 100, standing at 106.2 for January, 1941, 119.0 for December, 1940 and 104.6 for January, 1940. Sales in January, 1940 were 28 per cent higher than in the corresponding month of 1939 so that sales in January, 1941, while only 2 per cent higher than sales in January, 1940, were actually 30 per cent above the level recorded in January two years ago. Gains of 17, 15 and 10 per cent were registered in the corresponding-month comparisons for December, November and October, 1940 over the same months in 1939.

Results on a regional basis indicate decreased sales in Quebec, slightly increased sales in the Maritimes, the Prairies and Ontario and substantially increased sales in British Columbia. Percentage changes for economic regions are as follows: British Columbia up 10 per cent; Ontario up 3 per cent; the Maritimes and the Prairies up 2 per cent; and Quebec down 4 per cent.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

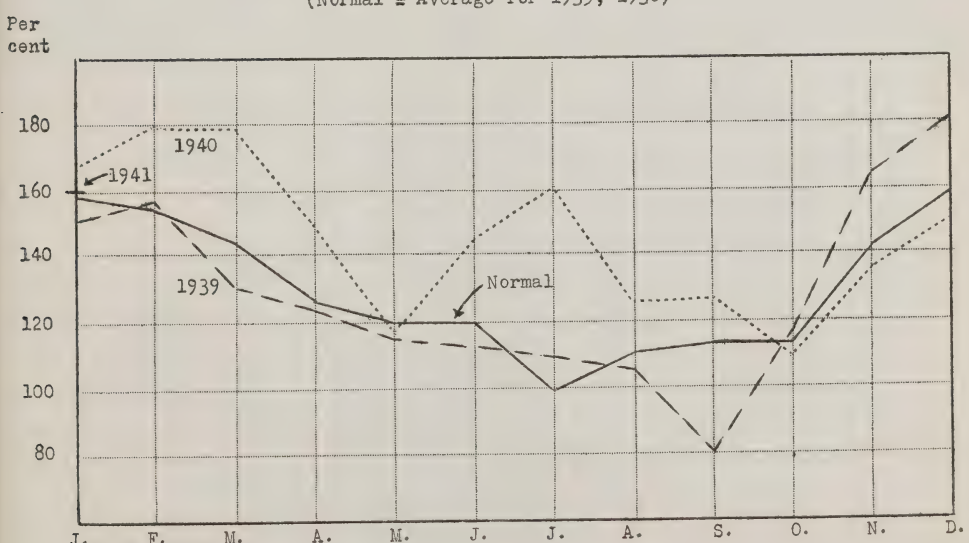
Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change	
				January, 1941 over -	
		January 1940	January 1941	January 1940	December 1940
		$	$		
CANADA	71	12,993	13,285	+ 1.5	- 10.7
Maritimes	14	1,434	1,460	+ 1.8	- 9.9
Quebec	21	1,974	1,903	- 3.6	- 19.7
Ontario	20	3,943	4,053	+ 2.8	- 12.3
Prairies	11	3,962	4,025	+ 1.6	- 6.4
British Columbia	5	1,680	1,844	+ 9.7	- 8.2

Stocks

Inventories carried by the wholesale grocery trade were 2 per cent lower at the end of January than on the corresponding date of 1940, but were 3 per cent higher than at the end of December, 1940. Stocks on hand at any period must be considered in relation to sales in the immediately following period. Stocks on hand at the beginning of January normally amount to 158 per cent of the January turnover. Stocks on hand at the end of December formed 160 per cent of the January sales, indicating that stocks on hand at the beginning of the month were almost at the normal inventory position for that time of year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade -- Percentage that Stocks on Hand at Beginning of Month bear to Sales during Month

(Normal = Average for 1935, 1936)



Retail Trade

Chain Stores

Sales of 1,011 chain store units operated by 25 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 24 per cent higher in January, 1941 than sales of 1,129 units operated by the same 25 firms in January a year ago. The reduction in Number of stores operated resulted in an even greater increase in average sales per store which rose by 39 per cent from $7,704 in January, 1940 to $10,703 for January, 1941. Increases in aggregate sales ranged from 18 per cent in Quebec to 30 per cent in British Columbia while increases in average sales per store ranged from 35 per cent in Quebec to 48 per cent in the Prairie Provinces. Average daily sales for food chains were 22 per cent higher in January of this year than last.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for January, 1940 and 1941

25 Chain Companies

	January, 1940		January, 1941		Per cent change in Sales
	No. Stores	Sales	No. Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	1,129	8,697,342	1,011	10,820,706	+ 24.4
Quebec	240	1,917,660	208	2,256,034	+ 17.6
Ontario	634	5,011,332	585	6,355,771	+ 26.8
Prairie Provinces	140	940,151	114	1,129,670	+ 20.2
British Columbia	115	828,199	103	1,079,231	+ 30.3

Independent Stores

Dollar sales of 1,035 independent grocery and combination stores were 7 per cent higher in January, 1941 than in January, 1940. Results on a geographical basis indicate sales increases in every section of the country ranging from an increase of 13 per cent in the Maritimes to one of 3 per cent in Alberta. Quebec and Ontario showed a gain of 7 per cent and British Columbia one of 6 per cent. Manitoba and Saskatchewan were the same with an increase of 5 per cent in January, 1941 over January, 1940.

Sales per store for the 1,035 independent stores reporting averaged $3,653 for the month of January, 1941 or 34 per cent of the average chain unit figure. The average per store was highest in Quebec at $4,469 and was lowest in Alberta at $2,443 Average turnover figures for January for other provinces were as follows: Maritime Provinces, $2,976; Ontario, $3,556; Manitoba, $2,747; Saskatchewan, $2,984 and British Columbia, $3,770.

Comparison of Sales Reported for January, 1940 and 1941

	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
Maritimes	148	118	+ 12.9
Quebec	224	169	+ 7.4
Ontario	406	281	+ 6.8
Manitoba	69	43	+ 5.2
Saskatchewan	40	21	+ 5.0
Alberta	68	44	+ 3.0
British Columbia	80	55	+ 6.0
CANADA	1,035	731	+ 7.4

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, FEBRUARY, 1941

Introduction

Indexes reflecting current trends in food distribution in Canada have been published for some years, indexes of retail and wholesale grocery trading establishments forming components of the two regular monthly bulletins on retail and wholesale trade issued by the Internal Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This series brings together in one report the information on retail and wholesale grocery sales contained in the other bulletins thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution.

Wholesale Trade

Sales of 75 of the larger wholesale grocery firms in Canada averaged 10 per cent higher in February, 1941 than in February, 1940 but were slightly below the level of January, 1940, unadjusted indexes on the base, average for 1935-1939 = 100 standing at 105.9 for February, 1941, 106.7 for January, 1941 and 96.7 for February, 1940. Since February sales in the wholesale grocery trade are normally 2 per cent below the level of January, the slight decrease registered in February, 1941 from the previous month, is in accord with the usual seasonal movement for that time of year. In the corresponding-month comparisons for January, December and November gains of 2, 17 and 15 per cent were registered over the same months of the previous year.

Results on a regional basis indicate that the 10 per cent increase in February for Canada as a whole was the result of widely varied trends in the different sections of the country. Sales in the Maritimes were up 25 per cent over February a year ago; sales in British Columbia were up 21 per cent; sales in both Ontario and Quebec were up 10 per cent; while the Prairies showed a decrease of 1 per cent from February, 1940.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

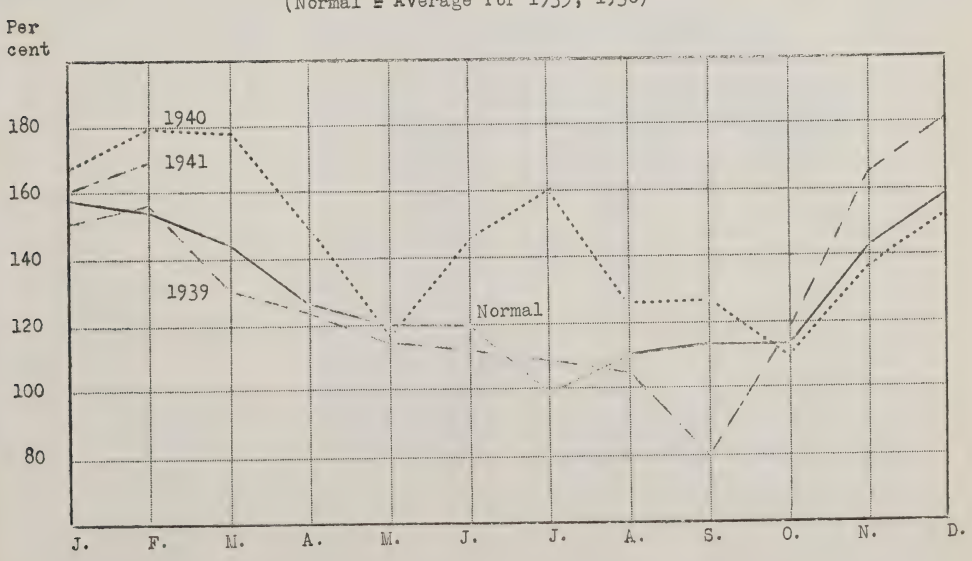
Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change		
				February, 1941 over -		Year to date 1941/1940
		February 1940	February 1941	February 1940	January 1941	
		$	$			
CANADA	75	12,228	13,390	+ 9.5	- 0.8	+ 5.6
Maritimes	16	1,314	1,643	+ 25.1	+ 2.8	+ 12.6
Quebec	21	1,736	1,903	+ 9.6	+ 8.0	+ 2.7
Ontario	21	3,738	4,110	+ 10.0	- 2.2	+ 5.8
Prairies	11	3,901	3,878	- 0.6	- 2.0	+ 0.6
British Columbia ...	6	1,539	1,856	+ 20.6	- 3.2	+ 14.8

Stocks

Inventories carried by the wholesale grocery trade were almost unchanged at the end of February from the corresponding date of 1940 and showed only a slight decrease from inventories at the end of January, 1941 Stocks on hand at any period must be considered in relation to sales in the immediately following period. Stocks on hand at the beginning of February normally amount to approximately 155 per cent of the February turnover. Stocks on hand at the end of January formed 168 per cent of the February sales, indicating that stocks on hand at the beginning of the month were higher than the normal inventory position for that time of year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade -- Percentage that Stocks on Hand at Beginning of Month bear to Sales during Month

(Normal = Average for 1935, 1936)



Retail Trade

Chain Stores

Sales of 1,115 chain store units operated by 28 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 14 per cent higher in February, 1941 than sales of 1,223 units operated by the same 28 firms in February a year ago. Average sales per store were $9,499 in February of this year, 25 per cent greater than the $7,584 average in the same month of 1940. A considerable reduction in the number of stores operated by the reporting chain companies is responsible, to some extent, for the increased sales volume per store.

Increases in various regions of the country were as follows: 20 per cent in British Columbia; 16 per cent in Ontario; 11 per cent in Quebec and 6 per cent in the Prairie Provinces. Average daily sales for food chains increased 18 per cent in February this year over last.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for February, 1940 and 1941

28 Chain Companies

	February, 1940		February, 1941		Per cent change in Sales
	No. Stores	Sales	No. Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	1,223	9,274,784	1,115	10,591,727	+ 14.2
Quebec	228	1,952,668	205	2,160,211	+ 10.6
Ontario	669	5,248,792	626	6,108,687	+ 16.4
Prairie Provinces ...	211	1,185,408	181	1,260,832	+ 6.4
British Columbia	115	887,916	103	1,061,997	+ 19.6

Independent Stores

Dollar sales of 1,035 independent grocery and combination stores were 5 per cent higher in February, 1941 than in February, 1940. Results on a geographical basis indicate sales increases in every section of the country, ranging from an increase of 10 per cent in the Maritimes to one of 1 per cent in Alberta. Ontario and Quebec each showed a gain of 5 per cent and Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia were the same with an increase of 4 per cent.

Comparison of Sales reported for February, 1940 and 1941

	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
Maritimes	142	109	+ 10.4
Quebec	229	157	+ 4.8
Ontario	410	275	+ 5.0
Manitoba	71	40	+ 3.6
Saskatchewan	37	21	+ 4.0
Alberta	68	37	+ 1.0
British Columbia	78	38	+ 3.9
CANADA	1,035	677	+ 5.3

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, MARCH, 1941

Introduction

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Wholesale Trade

Sales of 70 of the larger wholesale grocery firms in Canada averaged 19 per cent higher in March, 1941 than in March, 1940 and were 10 per cent above the level of February, 1941, unadjusted indexes on the base, average for 1935 - 1939 = 100 standing at 117.1 for March, 1941, 106.3 for February, 1941 and 98.1 for March, 1940. Since March sales in the wholesale grocery trade are normally 16 per cent above the level of February, the gain registered in March, 1941 from the previous month, is somewhat lower than the usual seasonal increase for that time of year. In the corresponding-month comparisons for February, January and December gains of 10, 2 and 17 per cent were recorded over the same months of the previous year.

Results on a regional basis indicate that the 19 per cent increase in March for Canada as a whole was the result of increased sales in all five economic sections of the country. Sales in the Maritimes were up 27 per cent over March a year ago; sales in Ontario were up 26 per cent; sales in the Prairies were up 15 per cent; while sales in both Quebec and British Columbia were up 14 per cent.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

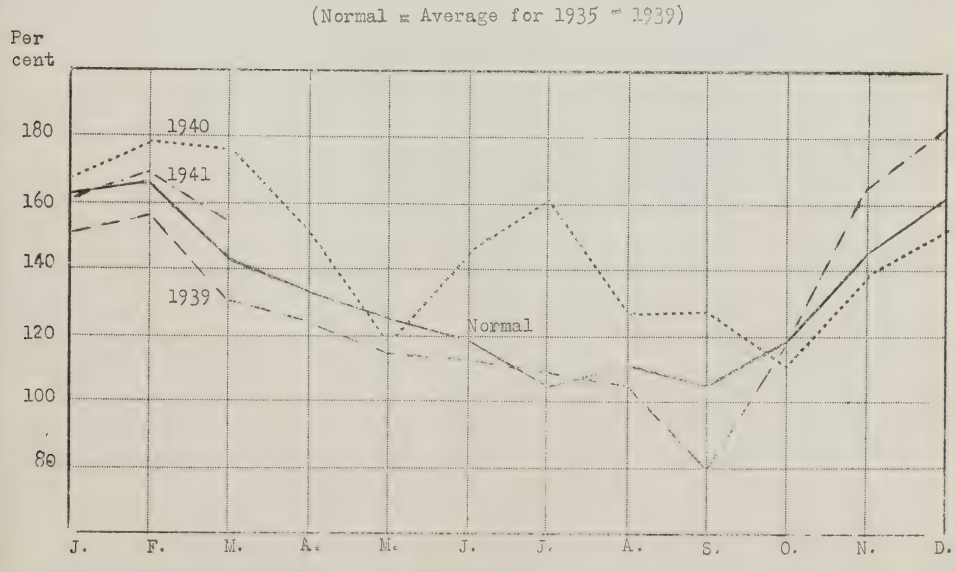
Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change		
				March, 1941 over -		Year to date 1941/1940
		March 1940	March 1941	March 1940	February 1941	
		$	$			
CANADA	70	12,035	14,367	+ 19.4	+ 10.1	+ 10.2
Maritimes	16	1,430	1,820	+ 27.2	+ 12.9	+ 17.5
Quebec	20	1,871	2,135	+ 14.1	+ 4.0	+ 7.2
Ontario	20	3,750	4,710	+ 25.6	+ 17.3	+ 12.3
Prairies	9	3,491	4,001	+ 14.6	+ 8.0	+ 5.1
British Columbia ..	5	1,493	1,701	+ 13.9	+ 3.9	+ 14.5

Stocks

Inventories carried by the wholesale grocery trade were up 8 per cent at the end of March from the corresponding date of 1940 and showed a decrease of 2.5 per cent from inventories at the end of February, 1941. Stocks on hand at any period must be considered in relation to sales in the immediately following period. Stocks on hand at the beginning of March normally amount to approximately 143 per cent of the March turnover. Stocks on hand at the end of February formed 155 per cent of the March sales, indicating that stocks on hand at the beginning of the month were slightly higher than the normal inventory position for that time of year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade -- Percentage that Stocks on Hand at Beginning of Month Bear to Sales during Month

(Normal = Average for 1935 - 1939)



Retail Trade

Chain Stores

Sales of 1,058 chain store units operated by 24 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 14 per cent higher in March, 1941 than sales of 1,168 units operated by the same 24 firms in March a year ago. Average sales per store were $11,105 in March of this year, 26 per cent greater than the $8,814 average in the same month of 1940. A considerable reduction in the number of stores operated by the reporting chain companies is responsible, to some extent, for the increased sales volume per store.

Increases in various regions of the country were as follows: 17 per cent in Ontario; 16 per cent in British Columbia; 12 per cent in Quebec and 6 per cent in the Prairie Provinces. Average daily sales for food chains increased 12 per cent in March this year over last.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for March, 1940 and 1941

24 Chain Companies

	March, 1940		March, 1941		Per cent change in Sales
	No. Stores	Sales	No. Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	1,168	10,294,367	1,058	11,748,697	+ 14.1
Quebec	221	2,174,384	200	2,426,780	+ 11.6
Ontario	663	5,943,724	618	6,936,663	+ 16.7
Prairie Provinces	205	1,313,734	170	1,387,624	+ 5.6
British Columbia	79	862,525	70	997,630	+ 15.7

Independent Stores

Dollar sales of 974 independent grocery and combination stores were 6 per cent higher in March, 1941 than in March, 1940. Gains of between 7 and 8 per cent were reported for the Maritime Provinces, for Ontario and for British Columbia. Sales in Saskatchewan and Alberta were practically unchanged from last year while minor increases of 3 per cent and 4 per cent were reported in Quebec and Manitoba respectively.

Comparison of Sales reported for March, 1940 and 1941

	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
Maritimes	139	98	+ 7.7
Quebec	208	125	+ 2.8
Ontario	376	267	+ 7.8
Manitoba	71	40	+ 4.2
Saskatchewan	40	21	+ 0.7
Alberta	64	33	+ 0.1
British Columbia	76	46	+ 7.3
CANADA	974	630	+ 5.5

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, APRIL, 1941

Introduction

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Wholesale Trade

Sales of 77 of the larger wholesale grocery firms in Canada averaged 23 per cent higher in April, 1941 than in April, 1940 and were 13 per cent above the level of March, 1941, unadjusted indexes on the base, average for 1935 - 1939 equals 100, standing at 132.4 for April, 1941, 117.4 for March, 1941 and 107.8 for April, 1940. Since April sales in the wholesale grocery trade are normally slightly lower than the level of March, the gain registered in April, 1941 from the previous month, is contrary to the usual seasonal movement for that time of year. In the corresponding-month comparisons for March, February and January gains of 20, 10 and 2 per cent were recorded over the same months of the previous year.

Results on a regional basis indicate that the 23 per cent increase in April for Canada as a whole was the result of increased sales in all five economic sections of the country. Sales in the Prairies were up 28 per cent over April a year ago; sales in British Columbia were up 26 per cent, sales in the Maritimes were up 25 per cent and sales in Ontario were up 21 per cent. Sales of wholesale grocers in Quebec were up 14 per cent.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

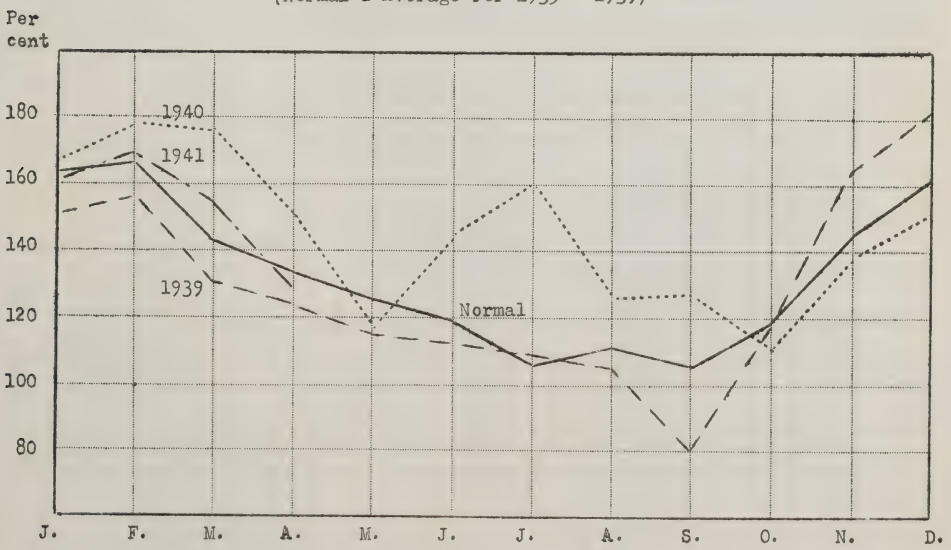
Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change		
				April, 1941 over		Year to date 1941 / 1940
		April 1940	April 1941	April 1940	March 1941	
		$	$			
CANADA	77	13,712	16,841	+ 22.8	+ 12.7	+ 13.7
Maritimes	16	1,514	1,896	+ 25.2	+ 5.1	+ 19.5
Quebec	22	2,290	2,609	+ 13.9	+ 20.5	+ 9.2
Ontario	21	4,160	5,029	+ 20.9	+ 8.3	+ 14.5
Prairies	12	3,941	5,038	+ 27.8	+ 15.8	+ 11.1
British Columbia	6	1,807	2,269	+ 25.6	+ 13.5	+ 18.2

Stocks

Inventories carried by the wholesale grocery trade were up 13 per cent at the end of April from the corresponding date of 1940 and were 7 per cent higher than inventories at the end of March, 1941. Stocks on hand at any period must be considered in relation to sales in the immediately following period. Stocks on hand at the beginning of April normally amount to approximately 133 per cent of the April turnover. Stocks on hand at the end of March formed 129 per cent of the April sales, indicating that stocks on hand at the beginning of the month were slightly lower than the normal inventory position for that time of year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade -- Percentage that Stocks on Hand at Beginning of Month Bear to Sales during Month

(Normal = Average for 1935 - 1939)



Retail Trade

Chain Stores

Sales of 953 chain store units operated by 22 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 23 per cent higher in April, 1941 than sales of 1,048 units operated by the same 22 firms in April a year ago. Average sales per store were $11,723 in April of this year, 35 per cent greater than the $8,686 average in the same month of 1940. A considerable reduction in the number of stores operated by the reporting chain companies is responsible, to some extent, for the increased sales volume per store.

Increases in various regions of the country were as follows: 24 per cent in Ontario; 23 per cent in British Columbia and 20 per cent in both Quebec and the Prairie Provinces. Average daily sales for food chains increased 27 per cent in April this year over last.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for April, 1940 and 1941

22 Chain Companies

Division	April, 1940		April, 1941		Per cent change in Sales
	No. Stores	Sales	No. Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	1,048	9,102,580	953	11,171,863	+ 22.7
Quebec	209	1,874,642	188	2,245,745	+ 19.8
Ontario	601	5,296,987	567	6,591,862	+ 24.4
Prairie Provinces	159	1,100,909	128	1,317,758	+ 19.7
British Columbia	79	830,042	70	1,016,498	+ 22.5

Independent Stores

Dollar sales of 983 independent grocery and combination stores were 9 per cent higher in April, 1941 than in April, 1940. Results on a geographical basis indicate sales increases in every section of the country ranging from a gain of 11 per cent in the Maritimes to one of 4 per cent in Manitoba. Gains of 9 and 10 per cent were reported for Ontario and Quebec respectively while Saskatchewan and Alberta showed an increase of 7 per cent. British Columbia sales were up 6 per cent over April, 1940.

Comparison of Sales Reported for April, 1940 and 1941

Division	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	983	725	+ 9.1
Maritimes	138	107	+ 10.7
Quebec	211	168	+ 10.4
Ontario	373	278	+ 9.3
Manitoba	66	47	+ 4.3
Saskatchewan	42	25	+ 6.9
Alberta	69	47	+ 7.0
British Columbia	84	53	+ 6.4

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, MAY, 1941

Introduction

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Wholesale Trade

Sales of 75 of the larger wholesale grocery firms in Canada averaged 3 per cent higher in May of this year than last and were 4 per cent above the April level. The 3 per cent increase over May, 1940 is considerably smaller than those recorded for earlier months, a result which may be attributed to the high level of wholesale grocery trading in May last year when considerable inventory buying by the retail trade took place following the renewal of hostilities on the western front. Sales for the year to date stand 11 per cent above the first five months of 1940.

Wholesale grocers in British Columbia reported a gain of 9 per cent in sales over May last year; Ontario sales were up 6 per cent and the Maritime Provinces, 4 per cent. Sales in the Prairie Provinces were practically unchanged while Quebec sales were down by 6 per cent.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

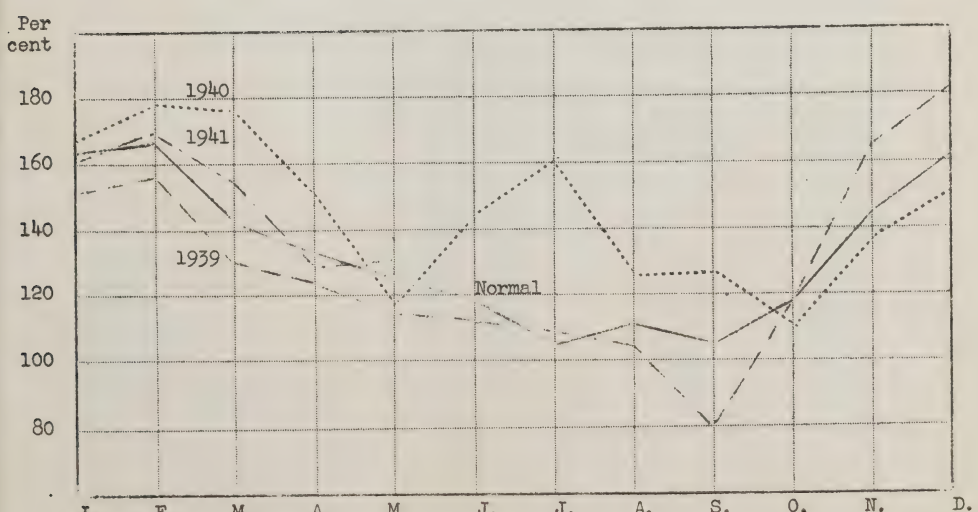
Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change		
		May, 1940	May, 1941	May, 1941 over		Year to date 1941/1940
				May 1940	April 1941	
		$	$			
CANADA	75	17,095	17,520	+ 2.5	+ 3.6	+ 10.9
Maritimes	15	1,800	1,876	+ 4.2	+ 3.8	+ 15.7
Quebec	22	3,206	3,003	- 6.3	+ 12.7	+ 4.8
Ontario	21	4,959	5,270	+ 6.3	+ 3.8	+ 12.5
Prairies	11	4,899	4,930	+ 0.6	+ 0.8	+ 8.5
British Columbia	6	2,231	2,441	+ 9.4	+ 6.8	+ 16.1

Stocks

Inventories carried by the wholesale grocery trade were down 1 per cent at the end of May from the corresponding date of 1940 and were 4 per cent lower than inventories at the end of April, 1941. Stocks on hand at any period must be considered in relation to sales in the immediately following period. Stocks on hand at the beginning of May normally amount to approximately 125 per cent of the May turnover. Stocks on hand at the end of April formed 131 per cent of the May sales, indicating that stocks on hand at the beginning of the month were slightly higher than the normal inventory position for that time of year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade -- Percentage that Stocks on Hand at Beginning of Month Bear to Sales during Month

(Normal = Average for 1935 - 1939)



Retail Trade

Chain Stores

Sales of 1,062 chain store units operated by 25 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 24 per cent higher in May, 1941 than sales of 1,155 units operated by the same 25 firms in May a year ago. Average sales per store were $12,074 in May of this year, 35 per cent greater than the $8,975 average in the same month of 1940. A considerable reduction in the number of stores operated by the reporting chain companies is responsible, to some extent, for the increased sales volume per store.

Increases in various regions of the country were as follows: 29 per cent in Ontario; 21 per cent in British Columbia; 17 per cent in Quebec; and 12 per cent in the Prairie Provinces. Average daily sales for food chains increased 22 per cent in May this year over last.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for May, 1940 and 1941

25 Chain Companies

Division	May, 1940		May, 1941		Per cent change in Sales
	No. Stores	Sales	No. Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	1,155	10,366,158	1,062	12,822,763	+ 23.7
Quebec	210	2,121,147	190	2,485,698	+ 17.2
Ontario	635	5,826,711	598	7,536,301	+ 29.3
Prairie Provinces	200	1,379,532	174	1,541,672	+ 11.8
British Columbia	110	1,038,768	100	1,259,092	+ 21.2

Independent Stores

Dollar sales of 999 independent grocery and combination stores were 15 per cent higher in May, 1941 than in May, 1940. Results on a geographical basis indicate sales increases in every section of the country ranging from a substantial gain of 18 per cent in the Maritimes to one of 8 per cent in Alberta. Ontario and Quebec were nearly the same with increases of 17 and 16 per cent respectively while Saskatchewan sales were up 13 per cent. British Columbia reported a gain of 11 per cent and Manitoba one of 10 per cent over May, 1940.

Comparison of Sales Reported for May, 1940 and 1941

Division	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	999	837	+ 15.4
Maritimes	145	118	+ 17.6
Quebec	215	190	+ 16.0
Ontario	389	338	+ 16.9
Manitoba	67	47	+ 10.2
Saskatchewan	40	35	+ 13.4
Alberta	64	47	+ 8.3
British Columbia	79	62	+ 10.9

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, JUNE, 1941

Introduction

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Wholesale Trade

Sales of 74 of the larger wholesale grocery firms in Canada averaged 9 per cent higher in June of this year than last but were 4 per cent below the May level. The 9 per cent increase over June, 1940 is higher than the increase recorded in the May comparison but is considerably smaller than the percentage gains recorded in April and March when gains of 23 per cent and 20 per cent respectively were registered over the corresponding months of 1940. Sales for the first six months of 1941 stand 11 per cent above the level for the first four months of 1940.

Results by economic divisions indicate that sales showed larger gains in the extreme East and West than in other regions. Wholesale grocers in British Columbia reported a gain of 17 per cent in sales over June last year. Sales in the Maritimes were up 12 per cent; the Prairies and Quebec up 9 per cent, while sales in Ontario were up only 5 per cent over June of last year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

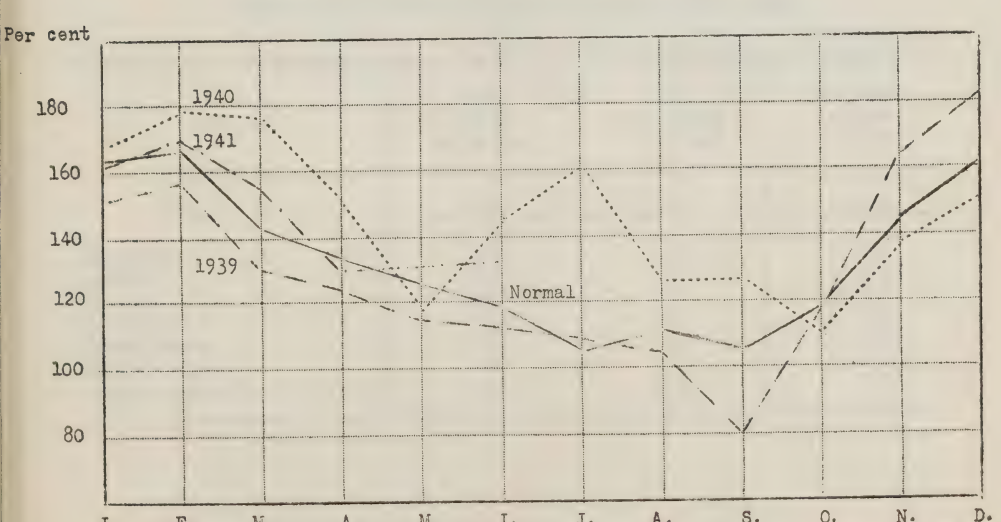
Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change		
				June, 1941 over		Year to date 1941 over 1940
		June 1940	June 1941	June 1940	May 1941	
		$	$			
CANADA	74	15,147	16,486	+ 8.8	- 4.2	+ 10.5
Maritimes	15	1,596	1,789	+ 12.1	- 5.0	+ 15.1
Quebec	21	2,250	2,452	+ 9.0	- 8.6	+ 5.6
Ontario	21	5,149	5,388	+ 4.6	+ 0.9	+ 10.9
Prairies	11	4,296	4,690	+ 9.2	- 5.8	+ 8.6
British Columbia	6	1,856	2,167	+ 16.8	- 9.9	+ 16.2

Stocks

Inventories carried by the wholesale grocery trade were down 6 per cent at the end of June from the corresponding date of 1940 and were 6 per cent lower than inventories at the end of May, 1941. Stocks on hand at any period must be considered in relation to sales in the immediately following period. Stocks on hand at the beginning of June normally amount to approximately 118 per cent of the June turnover. Stocks on hand at the end of May formed 132 per cent of the June sales, indicating that stocks on hand at the beginning of the month were substantially higher than the normal inventory position for that time of year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade -- Percentage that Stocks on Hand at Beginning of Month Bear to Sales During Month

(Normal = Average for 1935 - 1939)



Retail Trade

Chain Stores

Sales of 1,014 chain store units operated by 25 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 8 per cent higher in June, 1941 than sales of 1,104 units operated by the same 25 firms in June a year ago. Average sales per store were $11,187 in June of this year, 18 per cent greater than the $9,508 average in the same month of 1940. A considerable reduction in the number of stores operated by the reporting chain companies is responsible, to some extent, for the increased sales volume per store.

Increases in various regions of the country were as follows: 10 per cent in Ontario and in British Columbia; 8 per cent in Quebec and 2 per cent in the Prairie Provinces. Average daily sales for food chains increased 16 per cent in June of this year over last.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for June, 1940 and 1941

Division	June, 1940		June, 1941		Per cent change in Sales
	No. Stores	Sales	No. Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	1,104	10,496,385	1,014	11,343,314	+ 8.1
Quebec	210	2,148,672	191	2,319,878	+ 8.0
Ontario	591	5,861,085	555	6,415,467	+ 9.5
Prairie Provinces	193	1,448,156	167	1,469,360	+ 1.5
British Columbia	110	1,038,472	101	1,138,609	+ 9.6

Independent Stores

Dollar sales of 956 independent grocery and combination stores were 4 per cent higher in June, 1941 than in June, 1940. Quebec and the Maritime Provinces showed a gain of 7 per cent, while Ontario and Manitoba reported smaller increases of 4 and 3 per cent respectively. Saskatchewan and Alberta remained practically unchanged and British Columbia sales were 2 per cent lower than in June, 1940.

Comparison of Sales Reported for June, 1940 and 1941

Division	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	956	564	+ 4.5
Maritimes	136	94	+ 7.4
Quebec	212	140	+ 7.1
Ontario	367	217	+ 4.2
Manitoba	65	31	+ 3.0
Saskatchewan	38	18	- 0.8
Alberta	60	26	+ 0.4
British Columbia	78	38	- 2.3

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, JULY, 1941

Introduction

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Wholesale Trade

Sales of 74 of the larger wholesale grocery houses in Canada averaged 35 per cent higher in July of this year than last and were 14 per cent above the level recorded in June. The 35 per cent increase in July over July, 1940, is considerably higher than the increases reported in earlier corresponding-month comparisons of this year although sales in April and March showed gains of 23 per cent and 20 per cent respectively over April and March of last year. In June of this year sales were up 9 per cent over the same month of 1940. Wholesale grocers' sales for the first seven months of 1941 stand 14 per cent above the level for the first seven months of 1940.

Results by economic divisions indicate that sales showed larger gains in the Prairies and in the Maritimes than in other sections but in all parts of the country sales increases were 30 per cent or higher over July last year. Sales in the Prairies were up 41 per cent; in the Maritimes sales were up 38 per cent; Quebec, up 35 per cent; Ontario, up 31 per cent; while in British Columbia sales were up 30 per cent.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

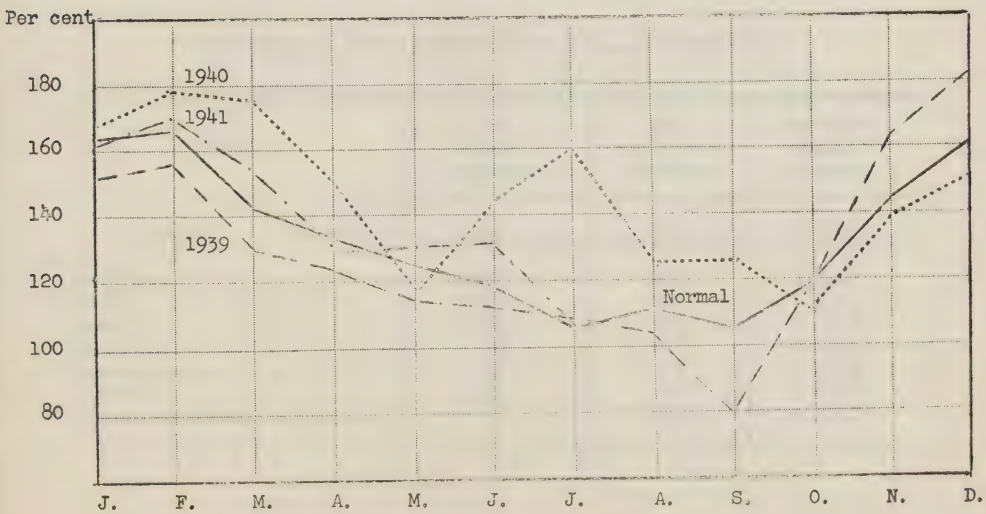
Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change		
				July, 1941 over		Year to date 1941/1940
		July 1940	July 1941	July 1940	June 1941	
		$	$			
CANADA	74	13,827	18,676	+ 35.1	+ 13.7	+ 14.2
Maritimes	16	1,658	2,285	+ 37.8	+ 25.0	+ 18.7
Quebec	21	2,207	2,976	+ 34.9	+ 16.7	+ 10.4
Ontario	20	4,287	5,597	+ 30.6	+ 7.0	+ 13.8
Prairies	11	3,907	5,523	+ 41.4	+ 20.3	+ 13.3
British Columbia ..	6	1,768	2,297	+ 29.9	+ 2.4	+ 18.1

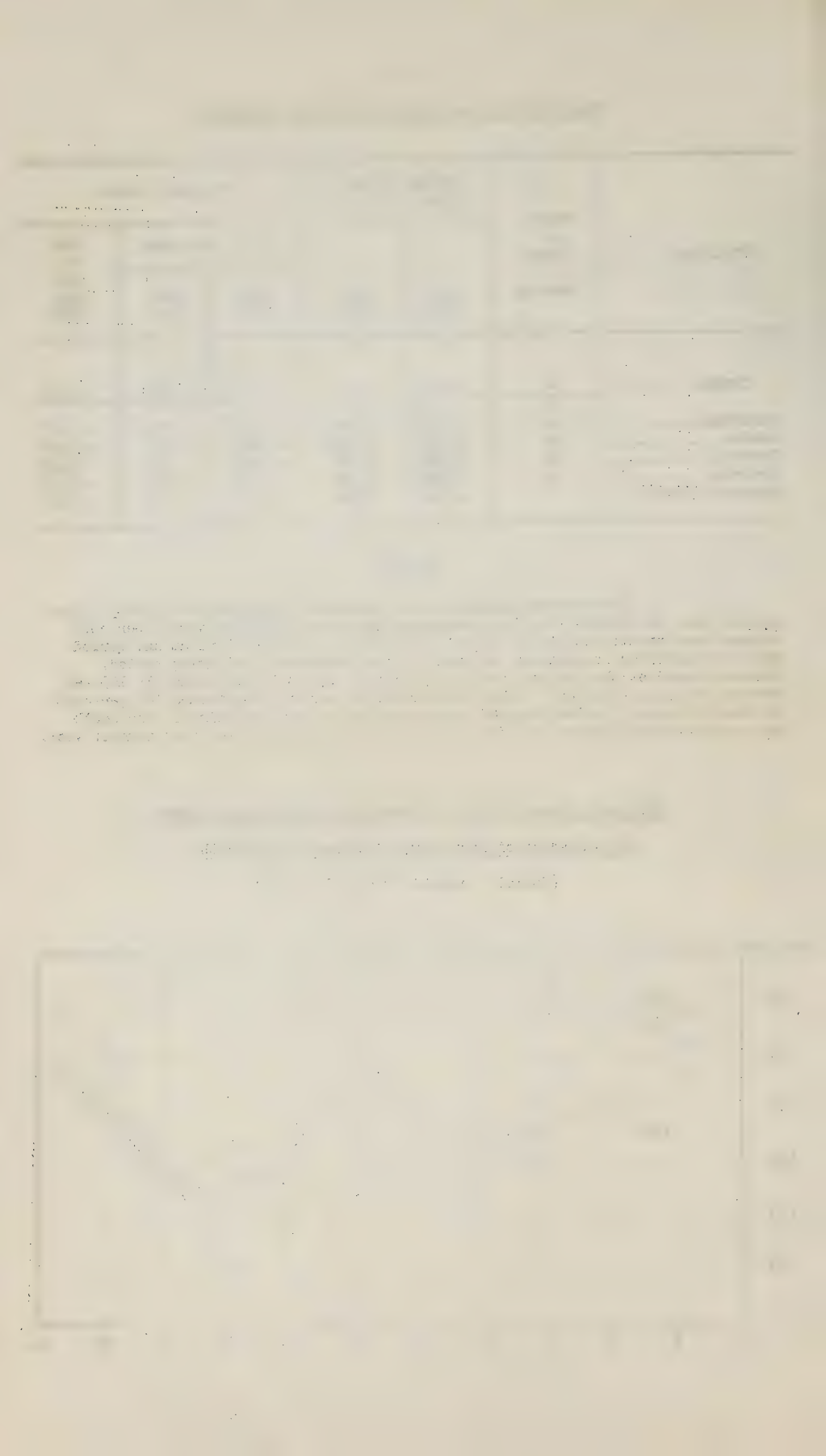
Stocks

Inventories carried by the wholesale grocery trade were up 7 per cent at the end of July from the corresponding date of 1940 and were 3 per cent higher than inventories at the end of June, 1941. Stocks on hand at any period must be considered in relation to sales in the immediately following period. Stocks on hand at the beginning of July normally amount to approximately 105 per cent of the July turnover. Stocks on hand at the end of June formed 107 per cent of the July sales, indicating that stocks on hand at the beginning of the month were only slightly higher than the normal inventory position for that time of year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade -- Percentage that Stocks on Hand at Beginning of Month Bear to Sales During Month

(Normal = Average for 1935 - 1939)





Retail Trade

Chain Stores

Sales of 979 chain store units operated by 24 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 31 per cent higher in July, 1941, than sales of 1,070 units operated by the same 24 firms in July a year ago. Average sales per store were $12,375 in July of this year, 44 per cent greater than the $8,620 average in the same month of 1940. A considerable reduction in the number of stores operated by the reporting chain companies is responsible, to some extent, for the increased sales volume per store.

Increases in various regions of the country were as follows: 36 per cent in Quebec, 34 per cent in Ontario, 22 per cent in the Prairie Provinces, and 20 per cent in British Columbia. Average daily sales for food chains increased 30 per cent in July of this year over last.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for July, 1940 and 1941

Division	July, 1940		July, 1941		Per cent change in Sales
	No. Stores	Sales	No. Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	1,070	9,223,820	979	12,115,068	+ 31.3
Quebec	211	1,847,834	192	2,516,630	+ 36.2
Ontario	595	5,254,146	557	7,022,984	+ 33.7
Prairie Provinces ..	156	1,174,850	129	1,438,280	+ 22.4
British Columbia ...	108	946,990	101	1,137,174	+ 20.1

Independent Stores

Dollar sales of 961 independent grocery and combination stores were 14 per cent higher in July, 1941, than in July, 1940. Gains were reported in every geographical section of the country ranging from a substantial increase of 17 per cent in Quebec to a gain of 4 per cent in British Columbia. Ontario sales were up 15 per cent; the Maritimes, 14 per cent; and Alberta, 13 per cent. Saskatchewan reported a gain of 11 per cent while Manitoba sales showed an 8 per cent increase over July, 1940.

Comparison of Sales Reported for July, 1940 and 1941

Division	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	961	808	+ 14.0
Maritimes	141	123	+ 14.4
Quebec	210	183	+ 17.1
Ontario	371	323	+ 15.2
Manitoba	66	47	+ 8.1
Saskatchewan	35	29	+ 10.8
Alberta	60	50	+ 12.8
British Columbia	78	53	+ 3.7

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, AUGUST, 1941

Introduction

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Wholesale Trade

Sales of 73 of the larger wholesale grocery houses in Canada stood 28 per cent higher in August of this year than last and were 2 per cent above the level recorded in July. The 28 per cent increase in August over August, 1940, while lower than the 35 per cent increase in July over July last, is higher than the increase reported in earlier corresponding-month comparisons of this year. In June sales were up 9 per cent over June of 1940; in May sales were up only 3 per cent, but in April and March sales showed gains of 23 per cent and 20 per cent respectively over April and March of last year. Wholesale grocers' sales for the first eight months of 1941 stand 16 per cent above the level for the corresponding eight-month period of 1940.

Sales increases for August by economic divisions are as follows: Quebec, up 34 per cent; British Columbia, up 31 per cent; Ontario, up 27 per cent; the Prairies, up 26 per cent and the Maritimes, up 24 per cent.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

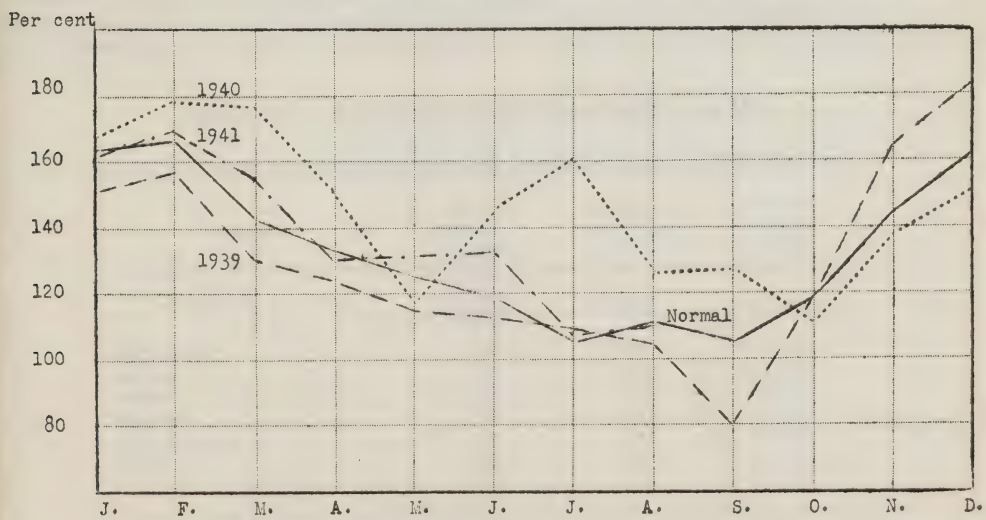
Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change		
				August, 1941 over		Year to date 1941 / 1940
		August 1940	August 1941	August 1940	July 1941	
		$	$			
CANADA	73	14,630	18,691	+ 27.8	+ 1.9	+ 16.0
Maritimes	15	1,549	1,922	+ 24.1	- 10.6	+ 19.4
Quebec	21	2,192	2,937	+ 34.0	- 2.7	+ 13.4
Ontario	21	4,391	5,575	+ 27.0	- 0.1	+ 15.4
Prairies	10	4,566	5,735	+ 25.6	+ 6.2	+ 15.0
British Columbia .	6	1,932	2,522	+ 30.6	+ 11.5	+ 19.7

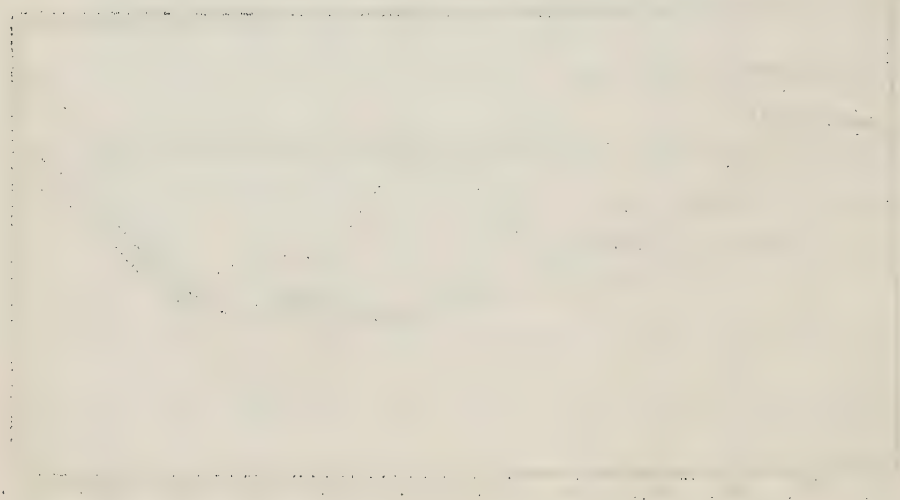
Stocks

Inventories carried by the wholesale grocery trade were up 14 per cent at the end of August from the corresponding date of 1940 and were 4 per cent higher than inventories at the end of July, 1941. Stocks on hand at any period must be considered in relation to sales in the immediately following period. Stocks on hand at the beginning of August normally amount to approximately 111 per cent of the August turnover. Stocks on hand at the end of July formed 110 per cent of the August sales, indicating that stocks on hand at the beginning of the month were at the normal inventory position for that time of year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade -- Percentage that Stocks on Hand at Beginning of Month Bear to Sales During Month

(Normal = Average for 1935 - 1939)





Retail Trade

Chain Stores

Sales of 991 chain store units operated by 27 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 26 per cent higher in August, 1941, than sales of 1,074 units operated by the same 27 firms in August a year ago. Average sales per store were $12,895 in August of this year, 37 per cent greater than the $9,411 average in the same month of 1940. A considerable reduction in the number of stores operated by the reporting chain companies is responsible, to some extent, for the increased sales volume per store.

Increases in various regions of the country were as follows: 30 per cent in both Quebec and Ontario, 19 per cent in British Columbia, and 12 per cent in the Prairie Provinces. Average daily sales for food chains increased 30 per cent in August of this year over last.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for August, 1940 and 1941

Division	August, 1940		August, 1941		Per cent change in Sales
	No. Stores	Sales	No. Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	1,074	10,107,219	991	12,779,231	+ 26.4
Quebec	211	1,983,706	193	2,581,549	+ 30.1
Ontario	603	5,742,978	569	7,456,633	+ 29.8
Prairie Provinces	152	1,325,301	129	1,482,492	+ 11.9
British Columbia	108	1,055,234	100	1,258,557	+ 19.3

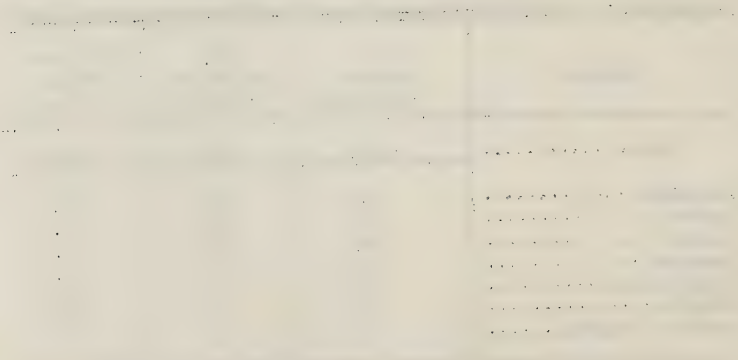
Independent Stores

Dollar sales of 1,001 independent grocery and combination stores were 12 per cent higher in August, 1941 than in August, 1940. Gains were reported in every section of the country, ranging from a substantial increase of 17 per cent in Quebec to a gain of 6 per cent in British Columbia. The Maritimes were up 13 per cent, Ontario and Alberta were the same with a gain of 11 per cent, and Manitoba and Saskatchewan were slightly lower, showing an increase of 10 per cent over August, 1940.

Comparison of Sales Reported for August, 1940 and 1941

Division	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	1,001	789	+ 12.2
Maritimes	142	116	+ 12.8
Quebec	218	183	+ 16.6
Ontario	391	307	+ 10.9
Manitoba	69	53	+ 10.0
Saskatchewan	37	30	+ 10.0
Alberta	67	49	+ 11.1
British Columbia	77	51	+ 6.2





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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, SEPTEMBER, 1941

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Wholesale Trade

Sales of 75 of the larger wholesale grocery houses in Canada were 31 per cent higher in September of this year than last and were 2 per cent above the level recorded in August. The 31 per cent increase in September over September, 1940, is higher than the increase reported in earlier corresponding-month comparisons of this year with the exception of July, when the increase stood at 36 per cent over July, 1940. In August, sales were up 29 per cent over August, 1940; in June, sales were up 9 per cent and in May only 3 per cent, while the earlier months of April and March showed gains of 23 per cent and 20 per cent respectively. Wholesale grocers' sales for the first nine months of 1941 stand 18 per cent above the level for the corresponding nine-month period of 1940.

Sales increases for September by economic divisions are as follows: British Columbia, 22 per cent; the Maritimes, 21 per cent; Quebec, 19 per cent; Ontario, 17 per cent; and the Prairies, 16 per cent.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

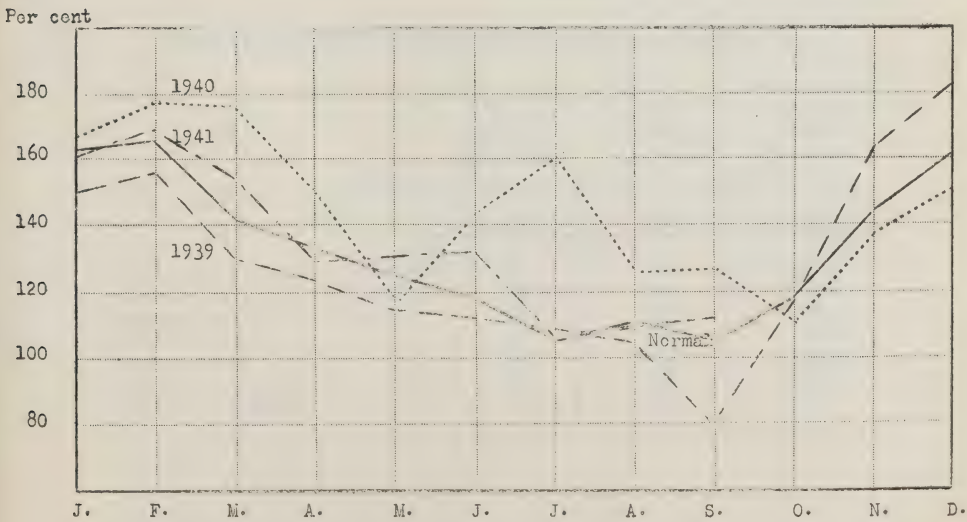
Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change		
				September, 1941 over		Year to date 1941 / 1940
		September 1940	September 1941	September 1940	August 1941	
		$	$			
CANADA	75	14,890	19,536	+ 31.2	+ 1.6	+ 18.0
Maritimes	16	1,743	2,210	+ 26.8	+ 2.3	+ 20.7
Quebec	20	2,087	2,919	+ 39.9	+ 6.7	+ 17.8
Ontario	21	4,633	6,085	+ 31.4	+ 7.1	+ 17.3
Prairies	12	4,672	5,931	+ 27.0	- 2.1	+ 16.4
British Columbia ..	6	1,755	2,391	+ 36.2	- 2.4	+ 21.5

Stocks

Inventories carried by the wholesale grocery trade were up 25 per cent at the end of September from the corresponding date of 1940 and were 12 per cent higher than inventories at the end of August, 1941. Stocks on hand at any period must be considered in relation to sales in the immediately following period. Stocks on hand at the beginning of September normally amount to approximately 105 per cent of the September turnover. Stocks on hand at the end of August formed 113 per cent of the September sales, indicating that stocks on hand at the beginning of the month were above the normal inventory position for that time of year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade -- Percentage that Stocks on Hand at Beginning of Month Bear to Sales During Month

(Normal = Average for 1935 - 1939)



Retail Trade

Chain Stores

Sales of 984 chain store units operated by 27 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 32 per cent higher in September, 1941, than sales of 1,063 units operated by the same 27 firms in September a year ago. Average sales per store were $12,343 in September of this year, 43 per cent greater than the $8,633 average in the same month of 1940. A considerable reduction in the number of stores operated by the reporting chain companies is responsible, to some extent, for the increased sales volume per store.

Increases in various regions of the country were as follows: 36 per cent in Quebec, 32 per cent in Ontario and in British Columbia, and 30 per cent in the Prairie Provinces. Average daily sales for food chains increased 29 per cent in September of this year over last.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for September, 1940 and 1941

Division	September, 1940		September, 1941		Per cent change in Sales
	No. Stores	Sales	No. Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	1,063	9,176,974	984	12,145,834	+ 32.4
Quebec	211	1,861,647	194	2,537,725	+ 36.3
Ontario	599	5,272,757	563	6,932,403	+ 31.5
Prairie Provinces	149	1,152,609	127	1,498,817	+ 30.0
British Columbia	104	889,961	100	1,176,889	+ 32.2

Independent Stores

Dollar sales of 1,059 independent grocery and combination stores were 17 per cent higher in September, 1941, than in September, 1940. Gains were reported in every section of the country, ranging from a substantial increase of 21 per cent in Quebec to a gain of 6 per cent in Saskatchewan. Ontario sales were up 18 per cent, the Maritimes, 17 per cent; while British Columbia and Manitoba showed gains of 14 per cent and 13 per cent respectively. Alberta sales were 10 per cent higher in September of this year than last.

Comparison of Sales Reported for September, 1940 and 1941

Division	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	1,059	944	+ 17.0
Maritimes	145	124	+ 17.2
Quebec	272	242	+ 20.7
Ontario	381	356	+ 17.7
Manitoba	68	56	+ 12.9
Saskatchewan	43	41	+ 6.2
Alberta	69	58	+ 10.4
British Columbia	81	67	+ 14.1

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, OCTOBER, 1941

Introduction

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Wholesale Trade

Sales of 72 of the larger wholesale grocery houses in Canada averaged 16 per cent higher in October of this year than last and stood 3 per cent higher than in September. The 16 per cent increase compared with October, 1940, is lower than gains recorded during recent months of this year compared with last. September sales stood 31 per cent higher than in September, 1940; August sales were up 29 per cent and July, 36 per cent. Sales for the first ten months of 1941 stand 18 per cent higher than during the corresponding period of 1940.

Increases in October of this year compared with last were greater in the extreme east and west than in other parts of Canada. British Columbia sales gained 30 per cent for the month and were up 20 per cent for the year to date. Sales in the Maritime Provinces stood 21 per cent higher in October of this year than last and were up 21 per cent for the year to date. Increases over October, 1940, for the other regions with gains for the year to date in brackets are as follows: Quebec, 9 per cent (17 per cent); Ontario, 17 per cent (17 per cent); Prairie Provinces, 13 per cent (16 per cent).

Inventories carried by wholesale grocers averaged 26 per cent higher at the end of October, 1941, than 1940 and were up 7 per cent compared with the end of September. Stocks on hand at the beginning of October normally form approximately 118 per cent of October sales. Stocks on hand at the beginning of October, 1941, formed 128 per cent of October sales indicating that the inventory situation at the beginning of the month was slightly above the normal position.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change		
				October, 1941 over		Year to date 1941/1940
		October 1940	October 1941	October 1940	September 1941	
CANADA	72	16,804	19,507	+ 16.1	+ 3.0	+ 17.7
Maritimes	14	1,829	2,205	+ 20.5	+ 12.1	+ 20.7
Quebec	21	3,073	3,336	+ 8.6	+ 9.5	+ 16.5
Ontario	21	5,019	5,852	+ 16.6	- 3.2	+ 17.2
Prairies	10	4,914	5,564	+ 13.2	- 2.3	+ 16.0
British Columbia	6	1,969	2,550	+ 29.5	+ 12.4	+ 19.5

Retail Trade

Chain Stores

Sales of 990 chain store units operated by 26 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 29 per cent higher in October, 1941, than sales of 1,067 units operated by the same 27 firms in October a year ago. Average sales per store were $13,533 in October of this year, 39 per cent greater than the $9,743 average in the same month of 1940. A considerable reduction in the number of stores operated by the reporting chain companies is responsible, to some extent, for the increased sales volume per store.

Increases in various regions of the country were as follows: 38 per cent in Quebec, 28 per cent in British Columbia, 27 per cent in Ontario, and 23 per cent in the Prairie Provinces. Average daily sales for food chains increased 27 per cent in October of this year over last.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for October, 1940 and 1941

Division	October, 1940		October, 1941		Per cent change in Sales
	No. Stores	Sales	No. Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	1,067	10,396,159	990	13,397,325	+ 28.9
Quebec	210	2,066,401	193	2,848,690	+ 37.9
Ontario	577	5,956,578	545	7,575,265	+ 27.2
Prairie Provinces	154	1,308,388	132	1,609,393	+ 23.0
British Columbia	126	1,064,792	120	1,363,977	+ 28.1

Independent Stores

Dollar sales of 1,019 independent grocery and combination grocery and meat stores were 15 per cent higher in October of this year than last, gains ranging from 6 per cent in Alberta to 18 per cent in the Maritime Provinces and Quebec being reported. Increase for other provinces were 7 per cent for Saskatchewan, 10 per cent for British Columbia, 12 per cent for Manitoba, and 15 per cent for Ontario.

Comparison of Sales Reported for October, 1940 and 1941

Division	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	1,019	839	+ 14.8
Maritimes	147	128	+ 18.3
Quebec	222	197	+ 18.4
Ontario	390	322	+ 14.5
Manitoba	75	59	+ 11.5
Saskatchewan	38	28	+ 7.0
Alberta	65	46	+ 5.7
British Columbia	82	59	+ 10.0

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, NOVEMBER, 1941

Introduction

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Wholesale Trade

Sales of 75 of the larger wholesale grocery houses in Canada averaged 10 per cent higher in November, 1941, than 1940 but stood 15 per cent below October. The 10 per cent increase over November, 1940 is smaller than gains recorded during earlier months, sales for the first eleven months of 1941 averaging 18 per cent above the corresponding period of the preceding year.

Increases in sales were greater in the Maritime Provinces and in British Columbia than in other parts of the country, both in the November comparison and also for the first 11 months of the year. Percentage increases over November, 1940 for each of the five economic divisions with increases for the year to date in brackets are as follows: Maritime Provinces, 13 per cent (20 per cent); Quebec, 7 per cent (16 per cent); Ontario, 10 per cent (17 per cent); Prairie Provinces, 5 per cent (15 per cent); British Columbia, 24 per cent (23 per cent).

Inventories carried by wholesalers in the grocery trade were valued 27 per cent higher at the end of November, 1941 than on the corresponding date a year earlier and were 6 per cent higher than at the end of October, 1941. Stocks on hand at the beginning of November normally form approximately 145 per cent of November sales. Stocks carried by grocery wholesalers at the beginning of November, 1941 formed 157 per cent of the value of business transacted during the month indicating that inventories on hand on the first of November were higher than the usual situation at that time of year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change		
				November, 1941 over		Year to date 1941/1940
		November 1940	November 1941	November 1940	October 1941	
		$	$			
CANADA.....	75	15,936	17,489	+ 9.7	-15.0	+17.0
Maritimes.....	14	1,674	1,886	+12.7	-13.0	+19.8
Quebec.....	22	3,125	3,338	+ 6.8	-13.8	+15.7
Ontario.....	21	4,598	5,039	+ 9.6	-15.6	+16.5
Prairies.....	12	4,725	4,971	+ 5.2	-14.9	+14.9
British Columbia..	6	1,814	2,255	+24.3	-16.7	+22.6

Retail Trade

Chain Stores

Sales of 958 chain store units operated by 23 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 20 per cent higher in November, 1941, than sales of 1,035 units operated by the same 23 firms in November a year ago. Average sales per store were $14,032 in November, 1941, 29 per cent greater than the $10,847 average in the same month of 1940. A considerable reduction in the number of stores operated by the reporting chain companies is responsible, to some extent, for the increased sales volume per store.

Increases in various regions of the country were as follows: 23 per cent in Quebec, 19 per cent in Ontario and in British Columbia, and 18 per cent in the Prairie Provinces. Average daily sales for food chains increased 24 per cent in November of 1941 over 1940.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for November, 1940 and 1941

Division	November, 1940		November, 1941		Per cent change in Sales
	No. Stores	Sales	No. Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA.....	1,035	11,226,617	958	13,442,199	+19.7
Quebec.....	209	2,329,101	195	2,858,506	+22.7
Ontario	582	6,477,664	547	7,719,937	+19.2
Prairie Provinces	141	1,322,642	119	1,558,363	+17.8
British Columbia	103	1,097,210	97	1,305,393	+19.0

Independent Stores

Dollar sales of 983 independent grocery and combination grocery and meat stores were 10 per cent higher in November of 1941 than 1940, gains ranging from 12 per cent in the Maritime Provinces to 6 per cent in Alberta and British Columbia. Increases for other provinces were 8 per cent for Saskatchewan and 10 per cent for Ontario, Quebec and Manitoba.

Comparison of Sales Reported for November, 1940 and 1941

Division	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	983	729	+ 9.8
Maritimes	138	102	+12.4
Quebec	210	173	+ 9.9
Ontario	386	284	+10.2
Manitoba	71	47	+ 9.7
Saskatchewan.....	37	29	+ 7.9
Alberta	61	41	+ 5.8
British Columbia.....	80	53	+ 6.4

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, DECEMBER, 1941

Introduction

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Wholesale Trade

Sales of 72 of the larger wholesale grocery houses averaged 4 per cent higher in December, 1941, than in the corresponding month of 1940, and were 10 per cent below the dollar volume of business transacted in November. The increase of 4 per cent compared with December, 1940, was considerably below the average increase recorded in earlier months of the year, annual totals for 1941 standing 16 per cent above 1940. Increases over December, 1940, were reported by all provinces excepting British Columbia, while all regions of the country recorded gains in the annual totals. Sales in British Columbia were 4 per cent lower in December, 1941, than 1940, while figures for the year were up 20 per cent. Increases over December, 1940, for the other economic divisions of the country with percentage gains for the year in brackets are as follows: Maritime Provinces, 8 per cent (19 per cent); Quebec, 7 per cent (15 per cent); Ontario, 3 per cnt (15 per cent); Prairie Provinces, 7 per cent (14 per cent).

Inventories carried by the wholesale grocers at the end of December, 1941, were valued 20 per cent higher than stocks on hand at the end of 1940, but were 9 per cent lower than at the end of November, 1941. Stocks on hand at the beginning of December are normally about 62 per cent in excess of the volume of business transacted in that month. Stocks on hand at the beginning of December, 1941, were 78 per cent above the volume of business realized in the month, indicating that the stock position at the beginning of December was slightly above the normal situation for this time of year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change		
				December, 1941 over		Year to date 1941/1940
		December 1940	December 1941	December 1940	November 1941	
		$	$			
CANADA	72	14,481	15,070	+ 4.1	- 9.6	+ 15.9
Maritimes	16	1,744	1,886	+ 8.1	- 13.7	+ 18.9
Quebec	18	1,671	1,782	+ 6.6	- 24.8	+ 14.9
Ontario	20	4,727	4,845	+ 2.5	- 1.9	+ 15.4
Prairies	12	4,305	4,601	+ 6.9	- 6.0	+ 14.2
British Columbia	6	2,034	1,955	- 3.9	- 11.1	+ 20.1

Retail Trade

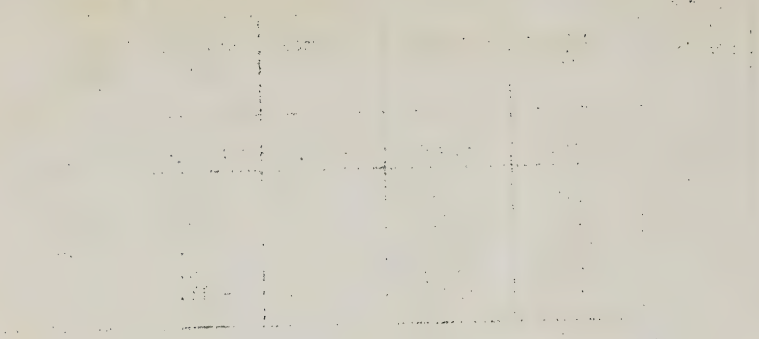
Chain Stores

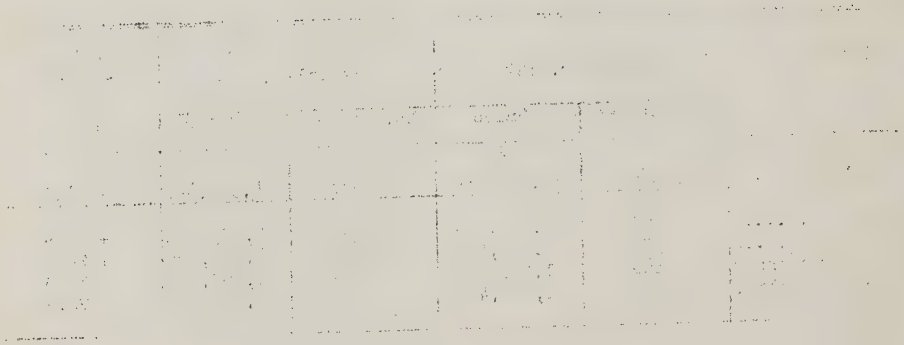
Sales of 988 chain store units operated by 24 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 25 per cent higher in December, 1941, than sales of 1,066 units operated by the same 24 firms in December a year ago. Average sales per store were $14,480 in December, 1941, 34 per cent greater than the $10,768 average in the same month of 1940. A considerable reduction in the number of stores operated by the reporting chain companies is responsible, to some extent, for the increased sales volume per store.

Increases in various regions of the country were as follows: 32 per cent in Quebec, 24 per cent in Ontario, 22 per cent in British Columbia, and 18 per cent in the Prairie Provinces. Average daily sales for food chains increased 22 per cent in December of 1941 over 1940.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for December, 1940 and 1941

Division	December, 1940		December, 1941		Per cent change in Sales
	No. Stores	Sales	No. Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	1.066	11,478,730	988	14,306,446	+ 24.6
Quebec	207	2,225,064	193	2,933,668	+ 31.9
Ontario	577	6,668,460	539	8,269,186	+ 24.0
Prairie Provinces	180	1,431,798	159	1,693,776	+ 18.3
British Columbia.	102	1,153,408	97	1,409,816	+ 22.2





Independent Stores

Sales of 987 independent grocery or grocery and meat stores averaged 15 per cent higher in December, 1941, than in December, 1940, gains in Eastern and Central Canada exceeding those in the Western Provinces. Percentage increases in dollar sales for the various divisions are as follows: Maritime Provinces, 19 per cent; Quebec, 19 per cent; Ontario, 14 per cent; Manitoba, 13 per cent; Saskatchewan, 8 per cent; Alberta, 11 per cent; and British Columbia, 10 per cent.

Comparison of Sales Reported for December, 1940 and 1941

Division	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	987	820	+ 15.0
Maritimes	135	118	+ 19.0
Quebec	214	187	+ 18.7
Ontario	385	326	+ 13.6
Manitoba	64	52	+ 13.3
Saskatchewan	41	28	+ 7.5
Alberta	64	49	+ 10.8
British Columbia	84	60	+ 9.9

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, JANUARY, 1942

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Wholesale Trade

Sales of 71 of the larger wholesale houses in Canada averaged 19 per cent higher in January, 1942 than in the corresponding month of 1941 and were 2 per cent higher than in December, 1941. Substantial gains over January, 1941 were reported in all sections of the country. Per cent increases for the various economic divisions standing as follows: Maritime Provinces, 20 per cent, Quebec, 15 per cent, Ontario, 21 per cent, Prairie Provinces, 21 per cent and British Columbia, 19 per cent.

Inventories carried by the wholesale grocery trade were valued 11 per cent higher at the end of January, 1942 than on the corresponding date of last year but were 15 per cent lower than the value of stocks reported on December 31, 1941. Stocks on hand at the beginning of January are normally about 63 per cent in excess of the volume of business transacted in that month. Stocks on hand at the beginning of January this year were 56 per cent in excess of the amount of business transacted during the month indicating that the stock position at the beginning of January, 1941 was slightly below the normal business for this period of the year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change	
				January, 1942 over	
		January 1941	January 1942	January 1941	December 1941
		$	$		
CANADA	71	13,316	15,875	+19.2	+ 2.2
Maritimes	12	1,307	1,562	+19.6	+ 0
Quebec	22	2,001	2,307	+15.2	-14.9
Ontario	20	4,070	4,935	+21.3	+ 2.4
Prairies.....	11	4,041	4,883	+20.9	+ 6.1
British Columbia ..	6	1,897	2,188	+19.2	+10.1

Retail Trade

Chain Stores

Sales of 959 chain store units operated by 25 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 36 per cent higher in January, 1942, than sales of 1,035 units operated by the same 25 firms in January a year ago. Average sales per store were $15,374 in January, 1942, 45 per cent greater than the $10,496 average in the same month of 1941.

Increases in various regions of the country were as follows: 39 per cent in Quebec, 38 per cent in the Prairie Provinces, 35 per cent in British Columbia, and 34 per cent in Ontario. Average daily sales for food chains increased 28 per cent in January of 1942 over 1941.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for January, 1941 and 1942

	January, 1941		January, 1942		Per cent change in Sales
	No. Stores	Sales	No. Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	1,035	10,863,241	959	14,743,366	+35.7
Quebec.....	209	2,256,034	194	3,128,339	+38.7
Ontario	583	6,346,993	546	8,529,287	+34.4
Prairie Provinces ...	140	1,180,983	122	1,633,425	+38.3
British Columbia..	103	1,079,231	97	1,452,315	+34.6

Independent Stores

Sales of 981 independent grocery or grocery and meat stores averaged 22 per cent higher in January, 1942 than in January, 1941. All provinces reported increases ranging from 15 per cent in Saskatchewan to 24 per cent in the Maritime Provinces. Increases for other provinces were 23 per cent for Quebec, 22 per cent for Alberta, 21 per cent in Ontario, 20 per cent in Manitoba and 17 per cent in British Columbia.

Comparison of Sales Reproted for January, 1941 and 1942

Division	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	981	897	+21.5
Maritimes	133	121	+23.8
Quebec	212	197	+23.2
Ontario	391	361	+21.3
Manitoba	63	56	+20.0
Saskatchewan	37	32	+14.8
Alberta	63	58	+21.5
British Columbia	82	72	+16.5

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Wholesale Trade

Sales of 75 of the larger wholesale houses in Canada averaged 18 per cent higher in February, 1942, than in the corresponding month of 1941 and were 1 per cent down from January. Substantial gains over February, 1941, were reported in all sections of the country, per cent increases for the various economic divisions standing as follows: Maritime Provinces, 12 per cent; Quebec, 14 per cent; Ontario, 18 per cent; Prairie Provinces, 18 per cent; and British Columbia, 28 per cent.

Inventories carried by the wholesale grocery trade were valued 13 per cent higher at the end of February, 1942, than on the corresponding date of last year but were 1 per cent lower than the value of stocks reported on January 31, 1942. Stocks on hand at the beginning of February are normally about 67 per cent in excess of the volume of business transacted in that month. Stocks on hand at the beginning of February this year were 58 per cent in excess of the amount of business transacted during the month indicating that the stock position at the beginning of February, 1942, was slightly below the normal position for this period of the year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change	
				February, 1942 over	
		February 1941	February 1942	February 1941	January 1942
		$	$		
CANADA	75	13,452	15,891	+ 18.1	- 1.1
Maritimes	14	1,527	1,715	+ 12.3	- 3.1
Quebec	22	2,118	2,416	+ 14.1	+ 9.4
Ontario	20	3,989	4,696	+ 17.7	- 5.1
Prairies	12	3,962	4,685	+ 18.2	- 3.6
British Columbia	6	1,855	2,379	+ 28.2	- 0.9

Retail Trade

Chain Stores

Sales of 872 chain store units operated by 27 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 27 per cent higher in February, 1942, than sales of 945 units operated by the same 27 firms in February a year ago. Average sales per store were $10,989 in February, 1942, 38 per cent greater than the $7,969 average in the same month of 1941.

Increases in various regions of the country were as follows: 31 per cent in Quebec, 28 per cent in Ontario and the Prairie Provinces, and 20 per cent in British Columbia.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for February, 1941 and 1942

	February, 1941		February, 1942		Per cent change in sales
	No. Stores	Sales	No. Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	945	7,522,051	872	9,582,358	+ 27.4
Quebec	205	2,160,211	190	2,819,015	+ 30.5
Ontario	472	3,113,388	437	3,976,372	+ 27.7
Prairie Provinces	143	1,155,657	127	1,473,202	+ 27.5
British Columbia.	125	1,092,795	118	1,313,769	+ 20.2

Independent Stores

Sales of 969 independent grocery or grocery and meat stores averaged 17 per cent higher in February, 1942, than in February, 1941. Sales in Saskatchewan were up 6 per cent while more substantial gains were recorded in other parts of the country as follows: British Columbia, 12 per cent; Alberta, 14 per cent; Manitoba, 15 per cent; Ontario, 16 per cent; the Maritime Provinces, 19 per cent; and Quebec, 21 per cent.

Comparison of Sales Reported for February, 1941 and 1942

Division	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	969	822	+ 17.1
Maritimes	142	116	+ 19.0
Quebec	209	188	+ 21.3
Ontario	383	329	+ 16.4
Manitoba	66	52	+ 14.8
Saskatchewan	36	27	+ 5.7
Alberta	56	48	+ 13.7
British Columbia	77	62	+ 12.1

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, MARCH, 1942

Introduction

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Wholesale Trade

Sales of 70 of the larger wholesale houses in Canada averaged 19 per cent higher in March of this year than last and were up 11 per cent compared with February. Sales for the first quarter of the current year stand 19 per cent over the corresponding period a year ago. Quebec reported a marked gain of 38 per cent over March a year ago, while smaller gains were reported for other regions as follows: Maritime Provinces, 17 per cent; Ontario, 16 per cent; Prairie Provinces, 17 per cent; and British Columbia, 11 per cent.

Inventories carried by the wholesale grocery trade were valued 19 per cent higher at the end of March, 1942, than on the corresponding date of last year and were 1 per cent lower than the value of stocks reported on February 28, 1942. Stocks on hand at the beginning of March are normally about 43 per cent in excess of the volume of business transacted in that month. Stocks on hand at the beginning of March this year were 54 per cent in excess of the amount of business transacted during the month indicating that the stock position at the beginning of March, 1942, was above the normal position for this period of the year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change		
				March, 1942 over		Year to date 1942/1941
		March 1941	March 1942	March 1941	February 1942	
		$	$			
CANADA	70	12,238	14,588	+ 19.2	+ 11.3	+ 18.8
Maritimes	16	1,821	2,126	+ 16.7	+ 17.1	+ 16.0
Quebec	20	1,980	2,727	+ 37.7	+ 26.4	+ 22.9
Ontario	19	4,728	5,474	+ 15.8	+ 14.9	+ 18.2
Prairies	10	2,445	2,862	+ 17.0	+ 7.0	+ 18.6
British Columbia	5	1,265	1,400	+ 10.7	- 7.7	+ 17.9

Retail Trade

Chain Stores

Sales of 1,012 chain store units operated by 29 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 18 per cent higher in March, 1942, than sales of 1,077 units operated by the same 29 firms in March a year ago. Average sales per store were $13,731 in March, 1942, 25 per cent greater than the $10,981 average for the same month of 1941.

Increases in various regions of the country were as follows: 22 per cent in Quebec, 15 per cent in Ontario, 18 per cent in the Prairie Provinces, and 21 per cent in British Columbia.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for March, 1941 and 1942

	March, 1941		March, 1942		Per cent change in sales
	No. Stores	Sales	No. Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	1,077	11,826,427	1,012	13,895,442	+ 17.5
Quebec	200	2,427,814	188	2,950,058	+ 21.5
Ontario	577	6,811,496	541	7,859,529	+ 15.4
Prairie Provinces ...	176	1,424,971	166	1,684,244	+ 18.2
British Columbia	124	1,162,146	117	1,401,611	+ 20.6

Independent Stores

Sales of 984 independent grocery or grocery and meat stores averaged 10 per cent higher in March of this year than last, all sections of the country excepting Saskatchewan contributing to the increase. Saskatchewan sales were unchanged from March a year ago while increases for other provinces stand at 5 per cent for British Columbia, 8 per cent for the Prairie Provinces, 9 per cent for Ontario, 11 per cent for Alberta, 13 per cent for Manitoba, and 14 per cent for Quebec.

Comparison of Sales Reported for March, 1941 and 1942

Division	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	984	717	+ 9.7
Maritimes	142	96	+ 7.9
Quebec	211	168	+ 13.5
Ontario	382	274	+ 9.3
Manitoba	68	54	+ 12.9
Saskatchewan	44	26	Unchanged
Alberta	59	41	+ 10.7
British Columbia	78	58	+ 4.7

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, APRIL, 1942

Introduction

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Wholesale Trade

Sales of 76 of the larger wholesale houses in Canada averaged 2 per cent higher in April of this year than last but declined by 4 per cent from March. Sales for the first four months of the current year stand 14 per cent over the corresponding period a year ago. The 2 per cent increase is considerably smaller than the gains recorded for the first three months of the year. The Maritime Provinces showed an increase of 6 per cent over April a year ago, while smaller gains were reported for other regions as follows: Quebec, 3 per cent; Prairie Provinces and British Columbia each 2 per cent; The volume of business transacted by grocery wholesalers in Ontario remained unchanged from the corresponding month last year.

Inventories carried by the wholesale grocery trade were valued 9 per cent higher at the end of April, 1942, than on the corresponding date of last year and were 2 per cent higher than the value of stocks reported on March 31, 1942. Stocks on hand at the beginning of April are normally 33 per cent in excess of the volume of business transacted in that month. Stocks on hand at the beginning of April this year were 44 per cent in excess of the amount of business transacted during the month indicating that the stock position at the beginning of April, 1942, was above the normal position for this period of the year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade By Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change		
		April 1941	April 1942	April, 1942 over		Year to date 1942/1941
				April 1941	March 1942	
		$	$			
CANADA	76	16,859	17,196	+ 2.0	- 4.4	+14.3
Maritimes	16	1,904	2,023	+ 6.3	- 4.3	+13.3
Quebec	22	2,628	2,705	+ 2.9	- 7.2	+15.7
Ontario	20	5,020	5,033	+ 0.2	- 6.5	+13.2
Prairies	12	5,038	5,120	+ 1.6	+ 0.7	+13.7
British Columbia .	6	2,269	2,315	+ 2.0	- 8.2	+17.2

Retail Trade

Chain Stores

Sales of 983 chain store units operated by 25 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 22 per cent higher in April, 1942, than sales of 1,037 units operated by the same 25 firms in April a year ago. Average sales per store were $14,212 in April, 1942, 28 per cent greater than the $11,090 average for the same month of 1941.

Increases in various regions of the country were as follows: 29 per cent in Quebec, 20 per cent in Ontario, 23 per cent in the Prairie Provinces, and 16 per cent in British Columbia.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for April, 1941 and 1942

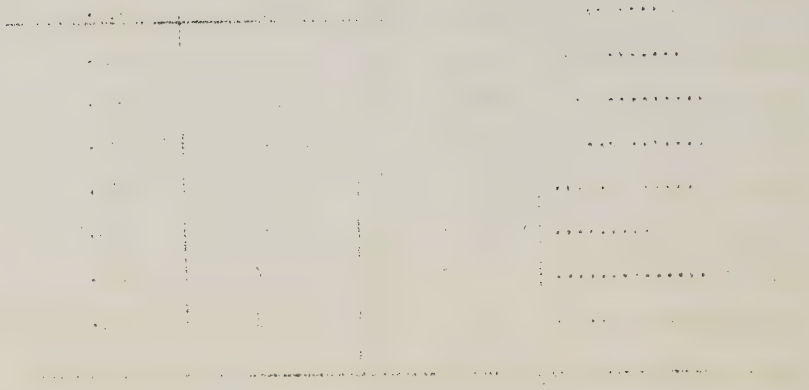
	April, 1941		April, 1942		Per cent change in sales
	No. Stores	Sales	No. Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	1,037	11,499,976	983	13,970,447	+21.5
Quebec	190	2,276,892	185	2,929,788	+28.7
Ontario	571	6,641,340	538	7,940,513	+19.6
Prairie Provinces	174	1,432,683	164	1,765,144	+23.2
British Columbia	102	1,149,061	96	1,335,002	+16.2

Independent Stores

Sales of 990 independent grocery or grocery and meat stores averaged 16 per cent higher in April of this year than last, all sections of the country contributing to the increase. Increases for the provinces ranged from 21 per cent for Quebec, 16 per cent for the Maritime Provinces, 15 per cent in Ontario, 13 per cent in Manitoba, 12 per cent in Alberta, 10 per cent in British Columbia, and 5 per cent in Saskatchewan.

Comparison of Sales Reported for April, 1941 and 1942

	No. Stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	990	813	+16.0
Maritimes	141	116	+16.1
Quebec	218	195	+21.1
Ontario	389	315	+15.2
Manitoba	70	54	+13.0
Saskatchewan	36	29	+ 5.2
Alberta	59	46	+12.3
British Columbia	77	58	+ 9.6



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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, MAY, 1942

Introduction

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Wholesale Trade

Sales of 73 of the larger grocery wholesale houses in Canada averaged 4 per cent higher in May of this year than last and increased 5 per cent over April sales. Sales for the first five months of the current year stand 12 per cent higher than the corresponding period a year ago. The 4 per cent increase conforms with the increase of 2 per cent recorded in April, but is smaller than the spread recorded for the earlier months of 1942. The Maritime Provinces showed a marked gain of 20 per cent over May a year ago, while smaller increases were reported for other regions as follows: Quebec, 4 per cent; Prairie Provinces, 2 per cent; British Columbia, 3 per cent. Sales in Ontario remained unchanged from May, 1941.

Inventories carried by the wholesale grocery trade were valued 5 per cent higher at the end of May, 1942, than on the corresponding date of last year but declined 3 per cent from the value of stocks reported on April 30, 1942. Stocks on hand at the beginning of May are normally 25 per cent in excess of the volume of business transacted in that month. Stocks on hand at the beginning of May this year were 33 per cent in excess of the amount of business transacted during the month, indicating that the stock position at the beginning of May, 1942, was above the normal position for this period of the year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade By Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change		
				May, 1942 over		Year to date 1942/1941
		May 1941	May 1942	May 1941	April 1942	
		$	$			
CANADA	73	17,368	18,002	+ 3.6	+ 5.3	+11.8
Maritimes.....	13	1,642	1,964	+19.6	+17.1	+14.7
Quebec	22	3,003	3,130	+ 4.2	+41.4	+12.8
Ontario.....	20	5,263	5,303	+ 0.9	+ 4.4	+10.4
Prairies	12	5,018	5,097	+ 1.6	+ 0.9	+10.9
British Columbia ..	6	2,442	2,503	+ 2.5	+ 7.3	+13.8

Retail Trade

Chain Stores

Sales of 1,000 chain store units operated by 26 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 20 per cent higher in May, 1942, than sales of 1,055 units operated by the same 26 firms in May a year ago. Average sales per store were $15,425 in May, 1942, 27 per cent greater than the $12,187 average for the same month of 1941.

Increases in various regions of the country were as follows: 33 per cent in Quebec, 16 per cent in Ontario, 23 per cent in the Prairie Provinces, and 16 per cent in British Columbia.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for May, 1941 and 1942

	May, 1941		May, 1942		Per cent change in sales
	No. Stores	Sales	No. Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	1,055	12,857,545	1,000	15,424,895	+20.0
Quebec	190	2,485,698	183	3,298,054	+32.7
Ontario	567	7,466,513	536	8,646,043	+15.8
Prairie Provinces	176	1,598,518	165	1,965,983	+23.0
British Columbia	122	1,306,816	116	1,514,815	+15.9

Independent Stores

Sales of 996 independent grocery or grocery and meat stores averaged 12 per cent higher in May of this year than last, all sections of the country except Sastatchewan contributing to the increase. Gains recorded for the provinces were as follows: Quebec, 16 per cent; Maritime Provinces, 14 per cent; Ontario, 11 per cent; Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia, each 9 per cent. Dollar value of sales in Saskatchewan remained unchanged from May, 1941.

Comparison of Sales Reported for May, 1941 and 1942

	No. Stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	996	805	+12.0
Maritimes	113	116	+13.5
Quebec	219	191	+16.3
Ontario	389	310	+11.1
Manitoba	69	56	+ 9.3
Saskatchewan	38	26	+ 0.7
Alberta	62	46	+ 9.1
British Columbia	82	60	+ 8.6

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, JUNE, 1942

Introduction

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Wholesale Trade

Sales of 72 of the larger grocery wholesale houses in Canada averaged 23 per cent higher in June of this year than last and increased 14 per cent over May sales. Sales for the first six months of the current year stand 14 per cent higher than for the corresponding period a year ago. The 23 per cent increase is considerably greater than gains recorded for May and April but conforms closely with the increase in sales reported in the earlier months of 1942. Wholesale grocery establishments in the Maritime Provinces reported a 29 per cent increase in sales, while gains for the other provinces were as follows: Quebec, 28 per cent; Ontario, 25 per cent; Prairies, 12 per cent; and British Columbia, 26 per cent.

Stocks on hand at the end of June, 1942, were valued 9 per cent higher than on the corresponding date of last year but declined by 1 per cent from the value of inventories reported on May 31, 1942. Stocks on hand at the beginning of June are normally 18 per cent in excess of the volume of business transacted in that month. Stocks on hand at the beginning of June this year were 16 per cent in excess of the amount of business transacted during the month, indicating that the stock position at the beginning of June, 1942 was slightly below the normal position for that period of the year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade By Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) June 1941	Dollar Sales (add 000) June 1942	Per cent change June, 1942 over June 1941	Per cent change June, 1942 over May 1942	Per cent change Year to date 1942/1941
		$	$			
CANADA	72	16,523	20,235	+22.5	+13.8	+13.8
Maritimes	14	1,593	2,058	+29.2	+ 3.4	+18.0
Quebec	22	2,816	3,595	+27.7	+14.9	+15.7
Ontario	20	5,375	6,741	+25.4	+25.4	+13.2
Prairies	10	4,572	5,104	+11.6	+ 3.9	+11.1
British Columbia	6	2,167	2,737	+26.3	+11.1	+16.0

Retail Trade

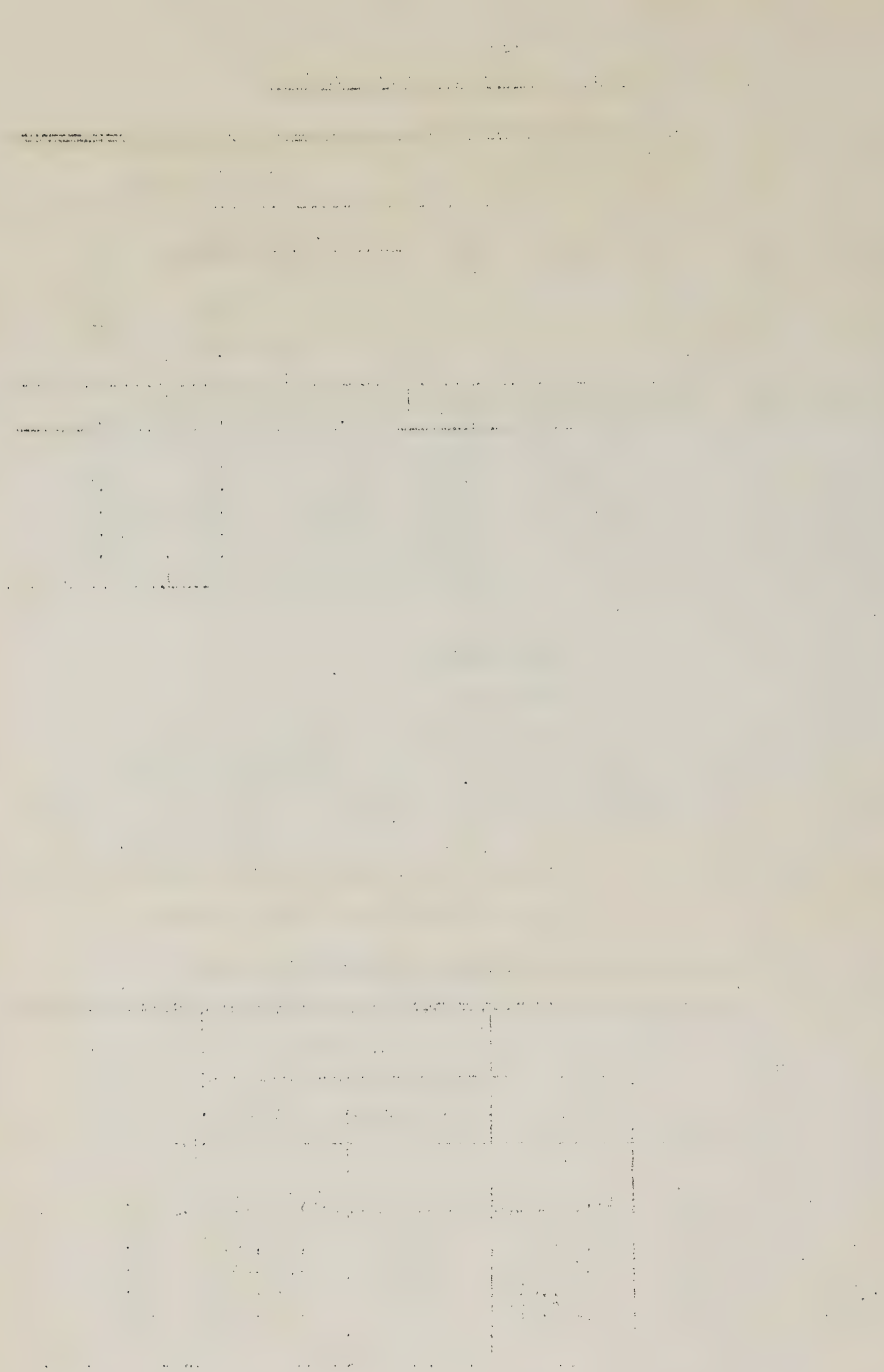
Chain Stores

Sales of 909 chain store units operated by 21 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 25 per cent higher in June, 1942, than sales of 947 units operated by the same 21 firms in June a year ago. Average sales per store were $15,241 in June, 1942, 30 per cent greater than the $11,733 average for the same month of 1941.

Increases in various regions of the country were as follows: 33 per cent in Quebec, 21 per cent in Ontario, 29 per cent in the Prairie Provinces, and 22 per cent in British Columbia.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for June, 1941 and 1942

	June, 1941		June, 1942		Per cent change in sales
	No. Stores	Sales	No. Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	947	11,111,279	909	13,854,197	+24.7
Quebec	189	2,293,721	181	3,058,541	+33.3
Ontario	550	6,409,741	526	7,769,163	+21.2
Prairie Provinces	107	1,269,243	107	1,642,890	+29.4
British Columbia	101	1,138,574	95	1,383,603	+21.5



Independent Stores

Sales of 938 independent grocery or grocery and meat stores averaged 18 per cent higher in June of this year than last, all regions of the country contributing to the increase. Gains recorded for the provinces were as follows: Maritimes, 18 per cent; Quebec, 22 per cent; Ontario, 17 per cent; Manitoba, 12 per cent; Saskatchewan, 7 per cent; Alberta, 11 per cent; and British Columbia, 17 per cent.

Comparison of Sales Reported for June, 1941 and 1942

	No. Stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	938	794	+17.5
Maritimes	132	112	+17.9
Quebec	192	179	+21.6
Ontario	374	313	+17.3
Manitoba	68	52	+12.4
Saskatchewan	38	28	+ 6.8
Alberta	59	43	+10.8
British Columbia	75	67	+16.8

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Wholesale Trade

Sales of 73 of the larger grocery wholesale houses in Canada averaged 3 per cent higher in July of this year than last but declined by 5 per cent from June. Sales for the first seven months of the current year stand 12 per cent higher than for the corresponding period a year ago. The 3 per cent increase was considerably lower than the 23 per cent gain recorded between the two years in the immediately preceding month of June. The smaller increase in July may be attributed in part to the high level of wholesale grocery trading reported in July, 1941, when sales averaged 36 per cent above July, 1940. The Maritimes and Quebec reported decreases in sales of 3 per cent and 4 per cent respectively, while the other regions of the country reported the following increases: Ontario, 3 per cent; Prairies, 5 per cent; British Columbia, 11 per cent.

Stocks on hand at the end of July, 1942, were valued 2 per cent lower than on the corresponding date of last year, and declined by 8 per cent from the value of inventories reported on June 30, 1942. Stocks on hand at the beginning of July are normally 5 per cent in excess of the volume of business transacted in that month. Stocks on hand at the beginning of July this year were 16 per cent in excess of the amount of business transacted during the month, indicating that the stock position at the beginning of July, 1942, was above the normal position for that period of the year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change		
		July 1941	July 1942	July, 1942 over		Year to date 1942/1941
				July 1941	June 1942	
		$	$			
CANADA	73	19,150	19,659	+ 2.7	+ 5.0	+ 12.0
Maritimes	14	2,144	2,084	- 2.8	- 10.2	+ 14.3
Quebec	21	3,311	3,183	- 3.9	- 8.1	+ 12.0
Ontario	20	5,755	5,935	+ 3.1	+ 12.5	+ 11.5
Prairies	12	5,646	5,913	+ 4.7	+ 11.5	+ 10.1
British Columbia ...	6	2,294	2,544	+ 10.9	- 10.1	+ 15.2

Retail Trade

Chain Stores

Sales of 981 chain store units operated by 26 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 12 per cent higher in July, 1942, than sales of 1,031 units operated by the same 26 firms in July a year ago. Average sales per store were $14,000 in July, 1942, 17 per cent greater than the $11,928 average for the same month of 1941.

Increases in various regions of the country were as follows: 13 per cent in Quebec, 9 per cent in Ontario, 22 per cent in the Prairie Provinces, and 15 per cent in British Columbia.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for July, 1941 and 1942

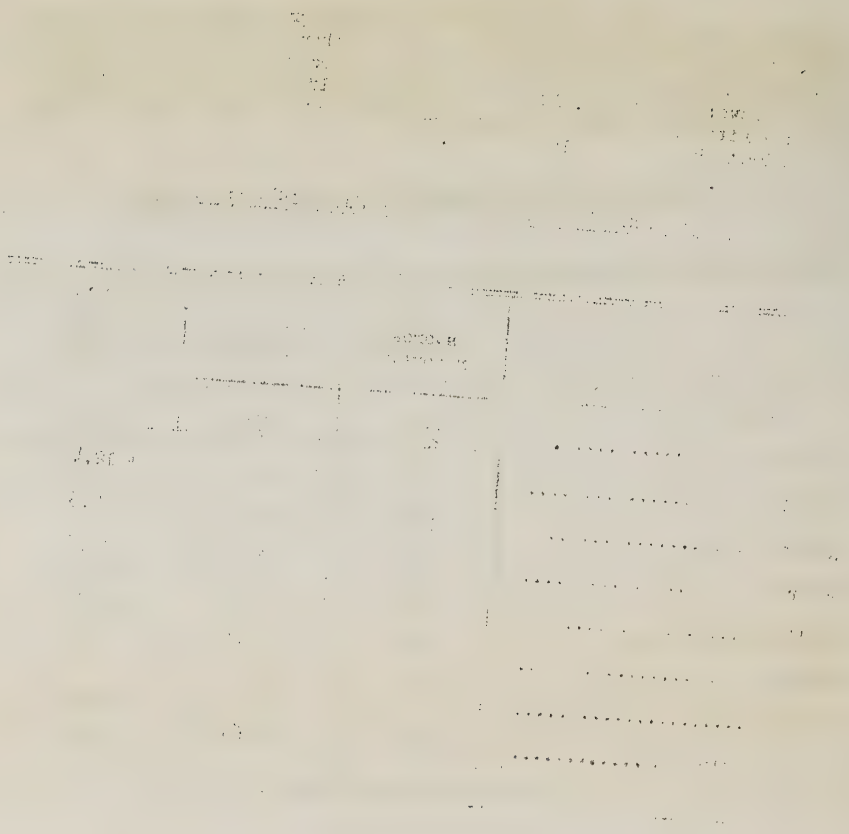
	July, 1941		July, 1942		Per cent change in sales
	No. Stores	Sales	No. Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	1,031	12,298,200	981	13,733,769	+ 11.7
Quebec	190	2,489,046	181	2,801,754	+ 12.6
Ontario	571	7,105,720	545	7,709,068	+ 8.5
Prairie Provinces	169	1,560,086	160	1,904,352	+ 22.1
British Columbia.	101	1,143,348	95	1,318,595	+ 15.3

Independent Stores

Sales of 974 independent grocery or grocery and meat stores averaged 14 per cent higher in July of this year than last, all regions of the country contributing to the increase. Gains recorded for the provinces were as follows: Maritimes, 12 per cent; Quebec, 18 per cent; Ontario, 13 per cent; Manitoba, 11 per cent; Saskatchewan, 8 per cent; Alberta, 12 per cent; and British Columbia, 16 per cent.

Comparison of Sales Reported for July, 1941 and 1942

	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	974	795	+ 13.8
Maritimes	140	109	+ 12.4
Quebec	205	173	+ 17.6
Ontario	387	318	+ 12.6
Manitoba	67	53	+ 11.1
Saskatchewan	36	26	+ 8.0
Alberta	58	47	+ 11.6
British Columbia	81	69	+ 15.8



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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, AUGUST, 1942

Introduction

Indexes reflecting current trends in food distribution in Canada have been published for some years, indexes of retail and wholesale grocery trading establishments forming components of the two regular monthly bulletins on retail and wholesale trade issued by the Internal Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This series brings together in one report the information on retail and wholesale grocery sales contained in the other bulletins thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution.

Wholesale Trade

Sales of 72 of the larger grocery wholesale houses, as measured by dollar volume, remained unchanged in August of this year compared with August, 1941, and declined 1 per cent from July. Sales for the first eight months of the current year stand 10 per cent higher than for the corresponding period a year ago. Ontario recorded an increase of 7 per cent in sales over August of last year while a 3 per cent increase was reported in the Maritime Provinces. Sales in British Columbia declined by 7 per cent while 6 per cent less business was transacted in the Prairies. Grocery wholesalers in Quebec reported no change in sales from August, 1941.

Stocks on hand at the end of August, 1942, were valued 10 per cent lower than on the corresponding date of last year, and declined by 7 per cent from the value of inventories reported on July 31, 1942. Stocks on hand at the beginning of August are normally 11 per cent in excess of the volume of business transacted in that month. Stocks on hand at the beginning of August this year were at the normal stock position, wholesalers reporting inventory holdings 11 per cent in excess of the volume of business transacted during that month.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change		
				August, 1942 over		Year to date 1942/1941
		August 1941	August 1942	August 1941	July 1942	
		$	$			
CANADA.....	72	19,204	19,127	- 0.4	- 1.2	+10.2
Maritimes	15	2,093	2,164	+ 3.4	- 2.5	+13.2
Quebec	21	3,212	3,199	- 0.4	- 0.3	+10.1
Ontario	19	5,489	5,878	+ 7.1	+ 3.7	+10.9
Prairies	11	5,889	5,530	- 6.1	- 4.7	+ 7.6
British Columbia ...	6	2,521	2,356	- 6.6	- 6.0	+12.1

Retail Trade

Chain Stores

Sales of 953 chain store units operated by 24 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 6 per cent higher in August, 1942, than sales of 999 units operated by the same 24 firms in August a year ago. Average sales per store were $14,420 in August, 1942, 11 per cent greater than the $12,967 average for the same month of 1941.

Increases in various regions of the country were as follows: 11 per cent in Quebec, 3 per cent in Ontario, 11 per cent in the Prairie Provinces, and 8 per cent in British Columbia.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for August, 1941 and 1942

	August, 1941		August, 1942		Per cent change in sales
	No. Stores	Sales	No. Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA.....	999	12,954,493	953	13,742,253	+ 6.1
Quebec	193	2,581,549	184	2,854,049	+10.6
Ontario	551	7,397,089	524	7,630,404	+ 3.2
Prairie Provinces	155	1,702,093	150	1,884,300	+10.7
British Columbia.	100	1,273,762	95	1,373,500	+ 7.8

Independent Stores

Sales of 925 independent grocery or grocery and meat stores averaged 11 per cent higher in August of this year than last, all regions of the country, except Saskatchewan, contributing to the increase. Sales in Saskatchewan remained unchanged from August, 1941. Gains recorded for the other provinces were as follows: Maritimes, 6 per cent; Quebec, 15 per cent; Ontario, 10 per cent; Manitoba, 8 per cent; Alberta, 7 per cent; and British Columbia, 17 per cent.

Comparison of Sales Reported for August, 1941 and 1942

	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	925	717	+10.8
Maritimes	125	85	+ 6.1
Quebec	196	165	+14.6
Ontario	368	286	+10.3
Manitoba	68	53	+ 8.1
Saskatchewan	36	24	+ 0.4
Alberta	55	41	+ 7.4
British Columbia	77	63	+16.9

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, SEPTEMBER, 1942

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Wholesale Trade

The dollar volume of sales transacted by 72 of the larger grocery wholesale establishments increased by 5 per cent in September of this year over September, 1941, and increased 8 per cent over August sales. Cumulative figures for the first nine months of the current year stand 10 per cent higher than for the corresponding period last year. All regions of the country contributed to the 5 per cent increase. Ontario came first in point of view of increased business, recording a gain of 9 per cent. September sales increased by 6 per cent in the Maritimes over September, 1941, 5 per cent in Quebec, and 3 per cent in both the Prairies and British Columbia.

Inventories held by grocery wholesalers were valued 14 per cent lower at the end of September, 1942, than on the corresponding date of last year, but increased by 5 per cent over the value of stocks reported on hand on August 31, 1942. Stocks on hand at the beginning of September are normally 5 per cent in excess of the volume of business transacted in that month. Value of stocks on hand at the beginning of September this year was on a par with the amount of business transacted during the month, indicating that the stock position at the beginning of September, 1942, was below the normal position for that period of the year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change		
				September, 1942 over		Year to date 1942/1941
		September 1941	September 1942	September 1941	August 1942	
		$	$			
CANADA	72	19,687	20,744	+ 5.4	+ 7.5	+19.6
Maritimes	14	2,043	2,157	+ 5.6	+ 4.4	+11.8
Quebec.....	22	3,388	3,565	+ 5.2	+12.4	+ 9.4
Ontario	19	6,077	6,602	+ 8.6	+ 8.6	+10.6
Prairies	11	5,789	5,949	+ 2.8	+ 7.2	+ 6.9
British Columbia	6	2,390	2,471	+ 3.4	+ 8.0	+11.0

Retail Trade

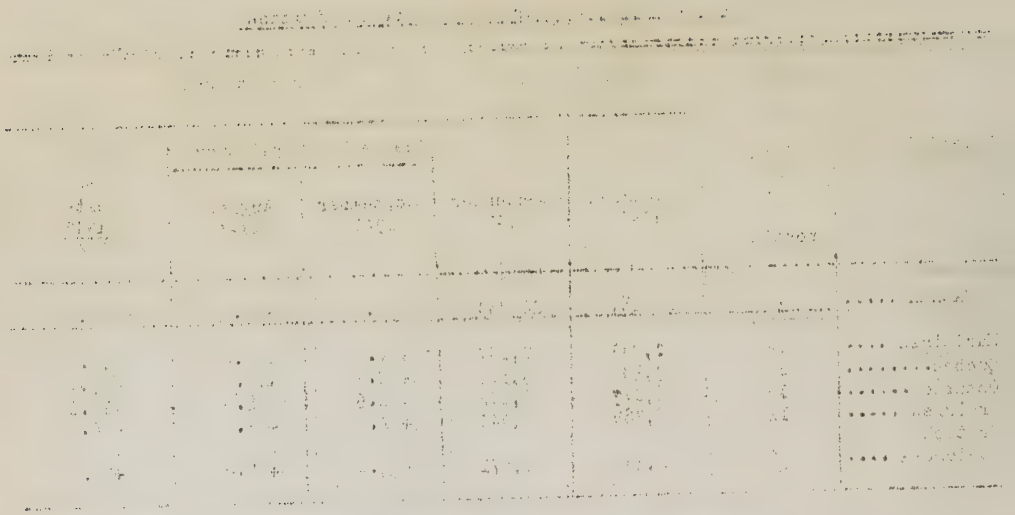
Chain Stores

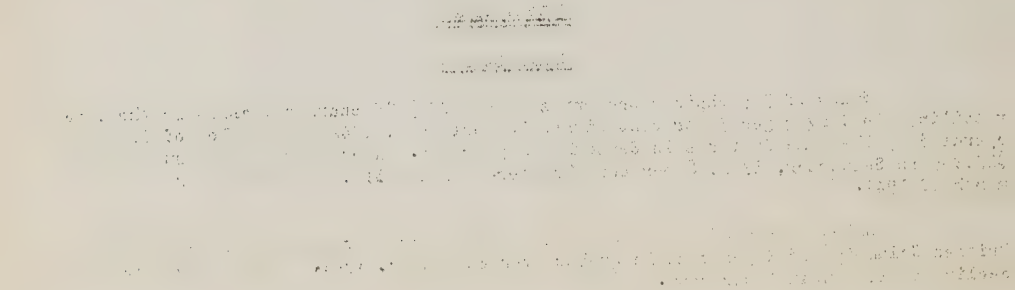
Sales of 989 chain store units operated by 25 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 3 per cent higher in September, 1942, than sales of 1,037 units operated by the same 25 firms in September a year ago. Average sales per store were $12,955 in September, 1942, 8 per cent greater than the $11,977 average for the same month of 1941.

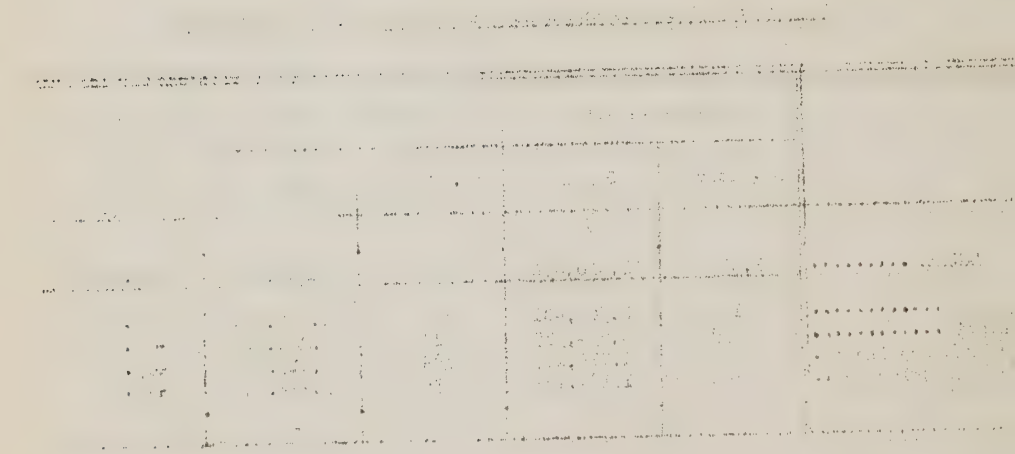
Sales increased by 14 per cent in the Prairie Provinces, 11 per cent in British Columbia and 3 per cent in Quebec over September, 1941. Ontario recorded a decline of less than 1 per cent.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for September, 1941 and 1942

	September, 1941		September, 1942		Per cent change in sales
	No. Stores	Sales	No. Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	1,037	12,420,076	989	12,812,665	+ 3.2
Quebec	192	2,506,401	180	2,578,450	+ 2.9
Ontario.....	553	6,954,379	529	6,901,876	- 0.8
Prairie Provinces .	192	1,775,107	185	2,019,605	+13.8
British Columbia ..	100	1,184,189	95	1,312,734	+10.9







Independent Stores

Sales of 956 independent grocery or grocery and meat stores averaged 14 per cent higher in September of this year than last. Increases ranged from 7 to 22 per cent. Gains recorded for the provinces were as follows: Maritimes, 10 per cent; Quebec, 15 per cent; Ontario, 14 per cent; Manitoba, 12 per cent; Saskatchewan, 7 per cent; Alberta, 15 per cent; and British Columbia, 22 per cent.

Comparison of Sales Reported for September, 1941 and 1942

	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	956	763	+13.9
Maritimes	135	101	+10.3
Quebec	200	166	+14.9
Ontario	378	291	+13.5
Manitoba	65	54	+12.1
Saskatchewan	39	31	+ 6.5
Alberta	61	53	+15.0
British Columbia	78	67	+22.4

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, OCTOBER, 1942

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Wholesale Trade

Reports received from 74 of the larger grocery wholesale establishments indicated a 2 per cent increase in sales in October, 1942, compared with October of last year. The dollar volume of business transacted during the month declined by 1 per cent from September, 1942. Cumulative figures for the first ten months of the current year stand 9 per cent higher than for the corresponding period last year. Ontario and the Prairies recorded gains of 6 per cent and 4 per cent respectively, while the Maritimes, Quebec and British Columbia registered decreases in sales ranging from 2 to 6 per cent.

Stocks on hand at the end of October, 1942, were valued 19 per cent lower than on the corresponding date of last year, but increased by 3 per cent over the value of stocks reported on hand on September 30, 1942. Stocks on hand at the beginning of October are normally 18 per cent in excess of the amount of business transacted in that month. Stocks on hand at the beginning of October this year were 7 per cent in excess of the volume of business transacted, indicating that the stock position at the beginning of October, 1942, was below the normal position for that period of the year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) October 1941 $	Dollar Sales (add 000) October 1942 $	Per cent change October, 1942 over October 1941	Per cent change October, 1942 over September 1942	Per cent change Year to date 1942 / 1941
CANADA	74	20,085	20,378	+ 1.5	- 0.8	+ 8.6
Maritimes	16	2,370	2,337	- 1.4	+ 4.2	+10.1
Quebec	22	3,640	3,571	- 1.9	+ 4.4	+ 7.8
Ontario	19	5,842	6,202	+ 6.2	- 5.3	+10.1
Prairies	11	5,683	5,879	+ 3.5	- 2.3	+ 6.6
British Columbia	6	2,551	2,389	- 6.3	+ 1.8	+ 8.9

Retail Trade

Chain Stores

Sales of 947 chain store units operated by 26 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 5 per cent higher in October, 1942, than sales of 999 units operated by the same 26 firms in October a year ago. Average sales per store were $15,011 in October, 1942, 11 per cent greater than the $13,501 average for the same month of 1941.

Sales increased by 11 per cent in the Prairie Provinces, 9 per cent in British Columbia, 8 per cent in Quebec and 3 per cent in Ontario over October, 1941.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for October, 1941 and 1942

	October, 1941 No. Stores	October, 1941 Sales $	October, 1942 No. Stores	October, 1942 Sales $	Per cent change in sales
CANADA.....	999	13,487,091	947	14,215,070	+ 5.4
Quebec	191	2,808,633	179	3,018,251	+ 7.5
Ontario.....	562	7,683,606	538	7,899,290	+ 2.8
Prairie Provinces .	147	1,685,971	138	1,877,758	+11.4
British Columbia ..	99	1,308,881	92	1,419,771	+ 8.5

Independent Stores

Sales of 956 independent grocery or grocery and meat stores averaged 15 per cent higher in October of this year than last, all regions of the country contributing to the increase. The Maritimes, Quebec and British Columbia each recorded a gain of 17 per cent; sales in Ontario increased by 18 per cent; while the dollar volume of business transacted in the Prairies was up 10 per cent in Saskatchewan, 11 per cent in Alberta, and 12 per cent in Manitoba.

Comparison of Sales Reported for October, 1941 and 1942

	No. stores reporting	No reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	948	806	+14.9
Maritimes	135	109	+17.3
Quebec	201	175	+17.3
Ontario	374	314	+17.5
Manitoba	67	56	+12.0
Saskatchewan	37	32	+10.0
Alberta	50	50	+11.2
British Columbia	77	70	+17.2

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, NOVEMBER, 1942

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Wholesale Trade

November sales of wholesale grocery firms increased by 3 per cent over November, 1941, according to reports received from 71 of the larger establishments but declined 14 per cent from the dollar volume of business transacted during October, 1942. Cumulative figures for the first eleven months of the current year stand 8 per cent higher than for the corresponding period last year. Grocery wholesalers in Ontario reported a 10 per cent increase in sales over November last year while the Maritimes recorded a gain of 6 per cent. Sales in Quebec and the Prairies remained unchanged while British Columbia sales were down by 9 per cent.

Inventories held by wholesale grocers at the end of November, 1942, were valued 16 per cent lower than on the corresponding date of last year, but increased by 6 per cent over the value of stocks reported on hand on October 31, 1942. Stocks on hand at the beginning of November are normally 45 per cent in excess of the amount of business transacted in that month. Stocks on hand at the beginning of November this year were 26 per cent in excess of the volume of business transacted, indicating that the stock position at the beginning of November, 1942, was below the normal position for that period of the year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) November 1941 $	Dollar Sales (add 000) November 1942 $	Per cent change November, 1942 over November 1941	Per cent change November, 1942 over October 1942	Per cent change Year to date 1942 over 1941
CANADA	[illegible]	16,615	17,150	+ 3.2	-17.6	+ 8.1
Maritimes	15	2,063	2,190	+ 6.2	- 5.6	+ 9.8
Quebec	22	3,195	3,206	+ 0.3	-11.9	+ 7.0
Ontario	19	4,980	5,488	+10.4	-12.3	+10.1
Prairies	10	4,870	4,389	-10.4	-17.2	+ 6.0
British Columbia ..	5	1,507	1,367	- 9.3	-19.4	+ 7.3

Retail Trade

Chain Stores

Sales of 949 chain store units operated by 25 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 9 per cent lower in November, 1942, than sales of 990 units operated by the same 25 firms in November a year ago. Average sales per store were $13,109 in November, 1942, 5 per cent lower than the $13,783 average for the same month of 1941. There was one more Saturday in November, 1941, than in November, 1942, and when adjustment was made to allow for this factor, the decline below November, 1941, was only 2 per cent.

Sales decreased by 1 per cent in the Prairie Provinces, 2 per cent in British Columbia, 9 per cent in Quebec, and 12 per cent in Ontario below November, 1941.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for November, 1941 and 1942

	November, 1941 No. Stores	November, 1941 Sales	November, 1942 No. Stores	November, 1942 Sales	Per cent change in sales
		$		$	
CANADA	990	13,645,230	949	12,440,652	- 8.8
Quebec	195	2,858,506	181	2,591,216	- 9.4
Ontario	549	7,791,577	528	6,892,716	- 11.5
Prairie Provinces.	149	1,689,754	145	1,674,349	- 0.9
British Columbia	97	1,305,393	95	1,282,371	- 1.8

Independent Stores

Sales of 887 independent grocery or grocery and meat stores averaged 9 per cent higher in November of this year than last, all regions of the country except Saskatchewan contributing to the increase. Sales in Saskatchewan declined by 7 per cent from the dollar volume of business transacted in November, 1941. Gains recorded for the other regions of the country are as follows: Maritimes, 6 per cent; Quebec, 15 per cent; Ontario, 9 per cent; Manitoba, 3 per cent. Alberta, 5 per cent; British Columbia, 10 per cent.

Comparison of Sales Reported for November, 1941 and 1942

	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	887	615	+ 9.0
Maritimes	125	80	+ 6.1
Quebec	194	149	+ 15.1
Ontario	348	237	+ 8.5
Manitoba	65	45	+ 3.1
Saskatchewan	33	20	- 7.1
Alberta	52	32	+ 5.0
British Columbia	70	52	+ 9.8

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, DECEMBER, 1942

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Wholesale Trade

Sales of 69 of the larger wholesale grocery houses averaged 16 per cent higher in December, 1942, than in the corresponding month of 1941, and remained unchanged from the dollar volume of business transacted in November. The 16 per cent increase is considerably greater than gains recorded in the five immediately preceding months, annual totals for 1942 standing 9 per cent above 1941. Increases over 1941 were reported by all the provinces, both for the month of December and also for the year. Increases over December, 1941, for the economic divisions of the country with the percentage gains for the year in brackets are as follows: Maritime Provinces, 13 per cent (10 per cent); Quebec, 8 per cent (7 per cent); Ontario, 16 per cent (11 per cent); Prairie Provinces, 13 per cent (7 per cent); British Columbia, 34 per cent (11 per cent).

Inventories carried by the wholesale grocers at the end of December, 1942, were valued 9 per cent lower than the stocks on hand at the end of 1941, but were 4 per cent higher than at the end of November, 1942. Stocks on hand at the beginning of December are normally 62 per cent in excess of the volume of business transacted in that month. Stocks on hand at the beginning of December, 1942, were 31 per cent above the volume of business realized in the month, indicating that the stock position at the beginning of December was decidedly lower than the normal situation for this time of the year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) December 1941 $	December 1942 $	Per cent change December, 1942 over December 1941	November 1942	Year to date 1942 1941
CANADA	69	15,249	17,674	+15.9	+ 0.3	+ 8.8
Maritimes	13	1,566	1,776	+13.4	- 7.7	+10.0
Quebec	20	2,381	2,559	+ 7.5	-18.0	+ 7.0
Ontario	19	4,744	5,517	+16.3	+ 3.8	+10.6
Prairies	11	4,504	5,073	+12.6	+ 5.4	+ 6.5
British Columbia	6	2,054	2,749	+33.8	+13.0	+10.5

Retail Trade

Chain Stores

Sales of 989 chain store units operated by 27 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged **2** per cent lower in December, 1942, than sales of 1,028 units operated by the same 27 firms in December a year ago. Average sales per store were $14,271 in December, 1942, 1 per cent higher than the $14,073 average for the same month of 1941.

Sales decreased by 5 per cent in Quebec, 8 per cent in Ontario, while increases of 18 and 8 per cent occurred in the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia respectively.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for December, 1941 and 1942

	December, 1941		December, 1942		Per cent change in sales
	No. Stores	Sales $	No. Stores	Sales $	
CANADA	1,028	14,466,764	989	14,113,542	- 2.4
Quebec	193	2,927,277	179	2,796,405	- 4.5
Ontario	558	8,365,575	539	7,715,679	- 7.8
Prairie Provinces	180	1,773,815	177	2,089,870	+17.8
British Columbia	97	1,400,097	94	1,511,588	+ 8.0

Independent Stores

Sales of 906 independent grocery or grocery and meat stores averaged 16 per cent higher in December, 1942, than in December, 1941, gains in Ontario and Quebec exceeding those in the Eastern and Western Provinces. Percentage increases in dollar sales for the various divisions are as follows: Maritime Provinces, 12 per cent; Quebec, 20 per cent; Ontario, 18 per cent; Manitoba, 8 per cent; Saskatchewan, 8 per cent; Alberta, 9 per cent; British Columbia, 12 per cent.

Comparison of Sales Reported For December, 1941 and 1942

	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	906	747	+16.1
Maritimes	126	94	+11.5
Quebec	192	171	+20.2
Ontario	363	301	+17.9
Manitoba	65	50	+ 8.3
Saskatchewan	40	33	+ 8.1
Alberta	56	47	+ 9.3
British Columbia	64	51	+12.2

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, JANUARY, 1943

Indexes reflecting current trends in food distribution in Canada have been published for some years, indexes of retail and wholesale grocery trading establishments forming components of the two regular monthly bulletins on retail and wholesale trade issued by the Internal Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This series brings together in one report the information on retail and wholesale grocery sales contained in the other bulletins thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution.

Wholesale Trade

Reports received from 63 of the larger wholesale grocery establishments revealed a 3 per cent decline in the dollar volume of sales in January of this year compared with January, 1942, and a decrease of 14 per cent from the value of business transacted in December. The Maritime Provinces and Quebec reported increases of 8 and 9 per cent respectively, while sales in Ontario remained unchanged from last year. Wholesalers in the Prairie Provinces did 12 per cent less business than in January, 1942, and British Columbia registered on 18 per cent drop in sales.

Stocks in the hands of wholesale grocers on January 31, 1943, were valued 12 per cent lower than on the corresponding date of last year, and were 6 per cent lower than the inventories held at the end of December, 1942. Stocks at the beginning of January are normally 63 per cent in excess of the volume of business transacted in that month. Stocks at the beginning of January, 1943, were 61 per cent in excess of the volume of business realized in the month, indicating that the stock position at the beginning of January was practically on a par with the normal situation for this time of the year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (000 omitted) January 1942	Dollar Sales (000 omitted) January 1943	Per cent change January, 1943 over January 1942	Per cent change January, 1943 over December 1942
		$	$		
CANADA	68	14,789	14,313	- 3.2	-14.3
Maritimes	14	1,640	1,764	+ 7.5	- 5.9
Quebec	21	2,187	2,386	+ 9.1	-13.6
Ontario	18	4,866	4,887	+ 0.4	-11.1
Prairies	10	4,634	4,082	-11.9	-16.7
British Columbia	5	1,462	1,194	-18.3	-22.8

Retail Trade

Chain Stores

Sales of 957 chain store units operated by 28 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 14 per cent lower in January, 1943, than sales of 994 units operated by the same 28 firms in January, a year ago. Average sales per store were $13,506 in January, 1943, 10 per cent lower than the $15,030 average for the same month of 1942.

Sales decreased by 11 per cent in Quebec, 15 per cent in Ontario, 9 per cent occurred in the Prairie Provinces and 13 per cent in British Columbia.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for January, 1942 and 1943

	January, 1942 No. Stores	January, 1942 Sales	January, 1943 No. Stores	January, 1943 Sales	Per cent change in sales
		$		$	
CANADA	994	14,939,492	957	12,924,343	-13.5
Quebec	194	3,128,339	181	2,788,070	-10.9
Ontario	554	8,612,250	537	7,293,576	-15.3
Prairie Provinces	149	1,746,438	145	1,585,042	- 9.2
British Columbia	97	1,452,215	94	1,258,255	-13.4

Independent Stores

Sales of 902 independent grocery or grocery and meat stores averaged 11 per cent higher in January, 1943, than in January, 1942. All regions of the country, except Saskatchewan, sharing in the increase. Dollar sales in Saskatchewan remained on a par with the volume of business transacted in January of last year while increases for other regions are as follows: Maritimes, 6 per cent; Quebec, 17 per cent; Ontario, 11 per cent; Manitoba, 6 per cent; Alberta, 1 per cent; British Columbia, 6 per cent.

Comparison of Sales Reported For January, 1942 and 1943

	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	902	667	+11.3
Maritimes	131	87	+ 5.7
Quebec	194	162	+16.6
Ontario	356	270	+11.3
Manitoba	64	42	+ 5.5
Saskatchewan	33	26	- 0.1
Alberta	55	34	+ 0.5
British Columbia	69	46	+ 5.8

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, FEBRUARY, 1943

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Wholesale Trade

The dollar value of sales transacted by 71 of the larger wholesale grocery establishments increased 3 per cent in February of this year over February, 1942, and recorded a 4 per cent gain over the value of merchandise sold in January. Gains registered in Ontario and the Eastern Provinces were offset by the decline in sales reported in the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia. Reports received from grocery wholesalers in Quebec revealed a 10 per cent increase; sales in Ontario and the Maritime Provinces were up 8 per cent; while the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia recorded decreases of 2 and 5 per cent respectively.

Stocks on hand on February 28, 1943, declined by 14 per cent from the inventory position on the corresponding date of last year, and were valued 3 per cent lower than the stocks held at the end of January, 1943. Stocks at the beginning of February are normally 67 per cent in excess of the volume of business transacted in that month. Stocks at the beginning of February, 1943, were 43 per cent in excess of the volume of business realized in the month, indicating that the stock position at the beginning of February was below the normal situation for this time of the year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) February 1942 $	Dollar Sales (add 000) February 1943 $	Per cent change February, 1943 over February 1942	Per cent change February, 1943 over January 1943
CANADA	71	15,757	16,231	+ 3.0	+ 3.7
Maritimes	14	1,707	1,841	+ 7.8	+ 0.7
Quebec	20	2,303	2,524	+ 9.5	+ 9.2
Ontario	19	4,685	5,035	+ 7.5	+ 1.3
Prairies	12	4,684	4,579	- 2.2	+ 4.4
British Columbia	6	2,378	2,252	- 5.3	+ 8.7

Retail Trade

Chain Stores

Sales of 929 chain store units operated by 27 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 12 per cent lower in February, 1943, than sales of 965 units operated by the same 27 firms in February a year ago. Average sales per store were $11,730 in February, 1943, 8 per cent lower than the $12,757 average for the same month of 1942.

Sales decreased by 14 per cent in Quebec, 15 per cent in Ontario, and 6 per cent in British Columbia, while an increase of 2 per cent occurred in the Prairie Provinces

Comparison of Stores and Sales for February, 1942 and 1943

	February, 1942 No. Stores	February, 1942 Sales $	February, 1943 No. Stores	February, 1943 Sales $	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	965	12,310,809	929	10,897,035	-11.5
Quebec	167	1,978,898	154	1,711,874	-13.5
Ontario	552	7,483,102	537	6,369,746	-14.9
Prairie Provinces	149	1,558,539	144	1,595,929	+ 2.4
British Columbia	97	1,290,270	94	1,219,486	- 5.5

Independent Stores

Sales of 910 independent grocery or grocery and meat stores averaged 14 per cent higher in February, 1943, than in February, 1942. Increases in the dollar volume of business transacted were reported by all regions of the country. Gains recorded over February of last year were as follows: Maritimes, 10 per cent; Quebec, 18 per cent; Ontario, 13 per cent; Manitoba, 8 per cent; Saskatchewan, 7 per cent; Alberta, 12 per cent; British Columbia, 18 per cent.

Comparison of Sales Reported for February, 1942 and 1943

	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	910	683	+13.7
Maritimes	131	87	+ 9.8
Quebec	194	158	+17.7
Ontario	360	261	+13.2
Manitoba	65	47	+ 8.3
Saskatchewan	35	28	+ 6.5
Alberta	55	44	+11.5
British Columbia	70	58	+17.7

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, MARCH, 1943

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Wholesale Trade

Sales of 73 of the larger wholesale grocery houses in Canada increased 9 per cent in March, 1943, over the dollar volume of business transacted in March last year, and were 18 per cent above the value of sales reported in February. British Columbia reported a decline of 12 per cent in sales below March last year while the other regions of the country showed the following gains: Maritimes, 14 per cent; Quebec, 6 per cent; Ontario, 12 per cent; Prairies, 11 per cent. Sales for the first quarter of this year averaged 3 per cent greater than for the corresponding period of last year.

Inventories held by wholesale grocers at the end of March, 1943, were valued 12 per cent lower than the merchandise reported on hand at the end of March last year, and declined by 2 per cent from the inventory position at the end of February. Stocks at the beginning of March are normally 43 per cent in excess of the volume of business transacted in that month. Stocks at the beginning of March, 1943, were 17 per cent in excess of the volume of business realized in the month, indicating that the stock position at the beginning of March had fallen considerably below the normal situation for this time of the year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) March, 1942 $	March, 1943 $	Per cent change March, 1943 over March, 1942	Per cent change March, 1943 over February, 1943	Per cent change Year-to-date 1943 1942
CANADA	73	17,071	18,526	+ 8.5	+18.3	+ 3.4
Maritimes	16	2,121	2,419	+14.1	+24.9	+ 8.9
Quebec	22	3,025	3,192	+ 5.6	+18.5	+ 7.6
Ontario	19	5,422	6,094	+12.4	+20.4	+ 7.0
Prairies	11	4,808	5,331	+10.9	+21.2	- 0.2
British Columbia	5	1,695	1,490	-12.1	- 2.4	- 8.0

Retail Trade

Chain Stores

Sales of 994 chain store units operated by 29 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 7 per cent lower in March, 1943, than sales of 1,027 units operated by the same 29 firms in March a year ago. Average sales per store were $13,196 in March, 1943, 4 per cent lower than the $13,797 average for the same month of 1942.

Sales decreased by 6 per cent in Quebec, 11 per cent in Ontario, and 4 per cent in British Columbia, while an increase of 3 per cent occurred in the Prairie Provinces.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for March, 1942 and 1943

	March, 1942 No. Stores	March, 1942 Sales $	March, 1943 No. Stores	March, 1943 Sales $	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	1,027	14,169,120	994	13,116,801	- 7.4
Quebec	187	2,971,880	176	2,780,587	- 6.4
Ontario	556	8,028,176	543	7,178,370	-10.6
Prairie Provinces	188	1,812,791	181	1,861,879	+ 2.7
British Columbia	96	1,356,273	94	1,295,965	- 4.4

Independent Stores

Reports received from 917 independent grocery or grocery and meat stores revealed that sales were valued 17 per cent higher in March, 1943, than in March, 1942. All regions of the country shared in the increase in trading, although gains in the Prairie Provinces were smaller than increases reported in the other provinces. The following gains were recorded over March of last year: Maritimes, 19 per cent; Quebec, 18 per cent; Ontario, 17 per cent; Manitoba, 10 per cent; Saskatchewan, 8 per cent; Alberta, 11 per cent; British Columbia, 18 per cent.

Comparison of Sales Reported for March, 1942 and 1943

	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	917	764	+16.6
Maritimes	128	110	+19.4
Quebec	198	167	+17.7
Ontario	360	299	+16.8
Manitoba	63	50	+ 9.6
Saskatchewan	36	29	+ 7.8
Alberta	62	53	+10.8
British Columbia	70	56	+18.0

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, APRIL, 1943

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Wholesale Trade

Statements received from 72 of the larger wholesale grocery houses in Canada showed a 6 per cent increase in sales in April, 1943 compared with the dollar volume of business transacted in April, 1942, but sales declined by 7 per cent from the March level of trading. Gains reported in the Maritimes, Quebec and Ontario were offset by the declines in dollar sales in the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia. Sales increased by 14 per cent in the Maritimes, 16 per cent in Quebec, 14 per cent in Ontario while decreases of 5 and 14 per cent were registered for the Prairies and British Columbia respectively. Cumulative indexes for the first four months of this year stand 4 per cent higher than for the corresponding period of last year.

Stocks in the hands of grocers on April 30, 1943, were value 14 per cent lower than inventories held at the end of April last year, and were practically unchanged from the value of merchandise reported on hand at the end of March. Stocks at the beginning of April are normally 33 per cent in excess of the volume of business transacted in the ensuing month. Stocks at the beginning of April, 1943, were 19 per cent in excess of the volume of business realized in the month, indicating that the stock position at the beginning of April had fallen considerably below the normal situation for this time of the year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change		
		April, 1942	April, 1943	April, 1943 over April, 1942	April, 1943 over March, 1943	Year-to-date 1943/1942
CANADA	72	15,955	16,884	+ 5.8	- 6.9	+ 4.0
Maritimes	15	1,935	2,209	+14.1	- 4.3	+10.3
Quebec	22	2,686	3,107	+15.7	+ 1.6	+ 9.8
Ontario	19	4,901	5,605	+14.3	- 5.0	+ 8.9
Prairies	11	4,916	4,657	- 5.3	-12.6	- 2.0
British Columbia	5	1,517	1,306	-13.9	-19.4	-21.8

Retail Trade

Chain Stores

Sales of 893 chain store units operated by 26 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 4 per cent lower in April, 1943, than sales of 923 units operated by the same 26 firms in April a year ago. Average sales per store were $14,779 in April, 1943, 1 per cent lower than the $14,941 average for the same month of 1942.

Sales decreased by 2 per cent in Quebec, 7 per cent in Ontario, and were unchanged in British Columbia, while an increase of 4 per cent occurred in the Prairie Provinces.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for April, 1942 and 1943

	April, 1942		April, 1943		Per cent change in sales
	No. Stores	Sales	No. Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	923	13,790,964	893	13,197,372	- 4.3
Quebec	185	2,933,131	174	2,868,709	- 2.2
Ontario	543	7,953,563	527	7,372,160	- 7.3
Prairie Provinces	99	1,569,268	98	1,624,845	+ 3.5
British Columbia	96	1,335,002	94	1,331,658	- 0.2

Independent Stores

Sales of 894 independent grocery or grocery and meat stores increased in dollar volume by 17 per cent in April, 1943 over the value of business transacted in the same month of last year. The increase was shared by all regions of the country, the following gains being recorded over April, 1942: Maritimes, 16 per cent; Quebec, 17 per cent; Ontario, 17 per cent; Manitoba, 12 per cent; Saskatchewan, 18 per cent; Alberta, 16 per cent; British Columbia, 17 per cent.

Comparison of Sales Reported for April, 1942 and 1943

	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	894	750	+16.6
Maritimes	127	108	+15.6
Quebec	190	154	+17.4
Ontario	348	290	+17.0
Manitoba	62	57	+11.6
Saskatchewan	33	30	+18.2
Alberta	61	51	+16.0
British Columbia	73	60	+17.3

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, MAY, 1943

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Wholesale Trade

Dollar sales of 74 of the larger wholesale grocery houses in Canada during May remained on a par with sales transacted in May, 1942, and were unchanged from the value of business done during April, 1943. A decline in sales in the Western Provinces counteracted gains in Ontario and the Maritime Provinces. Sales decreased by 9 per cent in British Columbia and 5 per cent in the Prairies. Ontario recorded a gain of 8 per cent in sales over May, 1942, while increases of 2 per cent and 4 per cent were reported by Quebec and the Maritimes respectively. Total figures for the first five months of the year stand 3 per cent higher than for the corresponding period of last year.

Inventories held by wholesale grocers at the end of May, 1943, were valued 13 per cent lower than on the corresponding date last year, and declined by 2 per cent from the inventory position at the end of April. Stocks at the beginning of May are normally 25 per cent in excess of the volume of business transacted during that month. Stocks at the beginning of May, 1943, were 11 per cent in excess of the volume of business realized in the month, indicating that the stock position at the beginning of May had declined sharply from the normal situation for this time of the year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change		
		May, 1942	May, 1943	May, 1943 over May, 1942	May, 1943 over April, 1943	Year-to-date, 1943/1942
CANADA	74	17,983	18,065	+ 0.5	- 0.3	+ 3.4
Maritimes	14	2,008	2,076	+ 3.5	+ 4.4	+ 8.7
Quebec	22	3,007	3,068	+ 2.0	+ 0.6	+ 7.8
Ontario	20	5,308	5,741	+ 8.2	- 1.2	+ 8.7
Prairies	12	5,097	4,835	- 5.1	+ 2.2	- 2.8
British Columbia	6	2,563	2,345	- 8.5	+ 0.1	- 4.8

Retail Trade

Chain Stores

Sales of 883 chain store units operated by 23 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 8 per cent lower in May, 1943, than sales of 910 units operated by the same 23 firms in May a year ago. Average sales per store were $15,943 in May, 1943, 5 per cent lower than the $16,738 average for the same month of 1942.

Sales decreased by 11 per cent in Quebec, 9 per cent in Ontario, 2 per cent in the Prairie Provinces and 1 per cent in British Columbia.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for May, 1942 and 1943

	May, 1942		May, 1943		Per cent change in sales
	No. Stores	Sales	No. Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	910	15,231,246	883	14,077,656	- 7.6
Quebec	183	3,298,054	174	2,942,838	-10.8
Ontario	529	8,696,638	512	7,950,121	- 8.6
Prairie Provinces	103	1,788,648	103	1,756,592	- 1.8
British Columbia	95	1,447,906	94	1,428,105	- 1.4

Independent Stores

Sales of 845 independent grocery or grocery and meat stores increased in dollar volume by 11 per cent in May, 1943 over the value of business transacted in the same month of last year. The increase was shared by all regions of the country, the following gains being recorded over May, 1942: Maritimes, 10 per cent; Quebec, 12 per cent; Ontario, 10 per cent; Manitoba, 11 per cent: Saskatchewan, 8 per cent; Alberta, 14 per cent; British Columbia, 15 per cent.

Comparison of Sales Reported for May, 1942 and 1943

	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	845	632	+11.2
Maritimes	121	91	+10.3
Quebec	190	131	+11.9
Ontario	325	240	+10.2
Manitoba	54	48	+11.0
Saskatchewan	31	24	+ 7.7
Alberta	54	45	+13.6
British Columbia	70	53	+15.0

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, JUNE, 1943

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Wholesale Trade

Dollar sales of 72 of the larger wholesale grocery houses in Canada were practically unchanged in June of this year compared with last and were 13 per cent higher than in the immediately preceding month of May. Sales for the first six months of 1943 averaged 3 per cent higher than in the corresponding period a year ago. A comparison of sales for June of this year and last on a regional basis show increases of 7 per cent in the Prairie Provinces and 3 per cent in the Maritimes. Sales in British Columbia were unchanged from June, 1942, while decreases of 3 per cent and 11 per cent were recorded in Ontario and Quebec respectively.

Dollar value of inventories held by the wholesale grocery trade averaged 21 per cent lower at the end of June this year than on the corresponding date a year ago. June inventories were also down 5 per cent compared with May. Wholesale grocers' stocks at the end of May are normally 18 per cent higher than the volume of business realized in June. Inventories at the end of May, 1943, were only 1 per cent above the volume of June business indicating that the stock position in the wholesale grocery trade at the beginning of June was considerably below the normal situation for this time of year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (000 omitted) June, 1942	Dollar Sales (000 omitted) June, 1943	Per cent change: June, 1943 over June, 1942	Per cent change: June, 1943 over May, 1943	Per cent change: Year-to-date, 1943/1942
CANADA	72	20,358	20,240	- 0.6	+ 13.4	+ 2.6
Maritimes	15	2,415	2,480	+ 2.7	+ 8.6	+ 7.4
Quebec	21	3,445	3,063	- 11.1	- 0.7	+ 4.1
Ontario	19	6,543	6,366	- 2.7	+ 12.7	+ 6.4
Prairies	11	5,216	5,594	+ 7.2	+ 18.2	- 1.0
British Columbia.	6	2,738	2,737	0	+ 21.5	- 3.9

Retail Trade

Chain Stores

Sales of 887 chain store units operated by 24 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 11 per cent lower in June, 1943, than sales of 916 units operated by the same 24 firms in June a year ago. Average sales per store were $14,117 in June, 1943, 8 per cent lower than the $15,352 average for the same month of 1942.

Sales decreased by 15 per cent in Quebec, 12 per cent in Ontario, 5 per cent in the Prairie Provinces and 2 per cent in British Columbia.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for June, 1942 and 1943

	June, 1942		June, 1943		Per cent change in sales
	No. Stores	Sales	No. Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	916	14,062,001	887	12,521,704	- 11.0
Quebec	183	3,096,035	174	2,624,305	- 15.2
Ontario	534	7,890,822	513	6,934,087	- 12.1
Prairie Provinces.	104	1,691,778	106	1,612,650	- 4.7
British Columbia .	95	1,383,366	94	1,350,662	- 2.4

Independent Stores

Sales of 889 independent grocery or grocery and meat stores increased in dollar volume by 8 per cent in June, 1943, over the value of business transacted in the same month of last year. The increase was shared by all regions of the country, the following gains being recorded over June, 1942: Maritimes, 11 per cent; Quebec, 7 per cent; Ontario, 7 per cent; Manitoba, 13 per cent; Saskatchewan, 9 per cent; Alberta, 12 per cent; British Columbia, 7 per cent.

Comparison of Sales Reported for June, 1942 and 1943

	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	889	639	+ 8.0
Maritimes	129	102	+ 10.9
Quebec	193	124	+ 7.0
Ontario	345	248	+ 6.9
Manitoba	59	53	+ 13.3
Saskatchewan	32	24	+ 8.9
Alberta	59	42	+ 11.8
British Columbia	72	46	+ 6.8

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63-D-01

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, JULY, 1943

Indexes reflecting current trends in food distribution in Canada have been published for some years, indexes of retail and wholesale grocery trading establishments forming components of the two regular monthly bulletins on retail and wholesale trade issued by the Internal Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This series brings together in one report the information on retail and wholesale grocery sales contained in the other bulletins thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution.

Wholesale Trade

Sales of 72 of the larger wholesale grocery houses in Canada averaged 4 per cent higher in July than in June and were up by 9 per cent compared with July, 1942. The increase over July, 1942 was considerably higher than the average gain recorded in earlier months, cumulative figures for the first seven months of the current year standing only 4 per cent above the corresponding period of 1942.

Sales in Quebec and British Columbia averaged 2 per cent lower in July of this year than last while the other three economic divisions for which separate figures are compiled recorded increases. Sales in the Maritimes and Ontario were up 10 per cent while the Prairie Provinces reported twice as large a gain with an increase of 20 per cent.

Dollar value of inventories held by the wholesale trade averaged 12 per cent lower at the end of July this year compared with the corresponding date a year ago. Wholesale grocers' stocks at the end of June are normally 5 per cent higher than the amount of business realized in July. Inventories at the end of June were 10 per cent lower than the volume of business transacted in July this year, indicating that the stock position in the wholesale grocery trade at the beginning of July was considerably below the normal situation for this period of the year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) July, 1942	Dollar Sales (add 000) July, 1943	Per cent change July, 1943 over July, 1942	Per cent change July, 1943 over June, 1943	Per cent change Year-to-date, 1943/1942
CANADA	72	18,781	20,499	+ 9.1	+ 4.4	+ 3.6
Maritimes	14	2,006	2,197	+ 9.5	- 4.0	+ 7.7
Quebec	20	3,070	3,005	- 2.1	+ 0.9	+ 3.1
Ontario	20	5,936	6,538	+10.1	- 0.8	+ 6.9
Prairies	12	5,225	6,265	+19.9	+25.5	+ 2.3
British Columbia	6	2,544	2,494	- 2.0	-12.3	- 3.6

Retail Trade

Chain Stores

Sales of 888 chain store units operated by 25 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 1 per cent higher in July, 1943, than sales of 917 units operated by the same 25 firms in July a year ago. Average sales per store were $15,482 in July, 1943, 4 per cent higher than the $14,825 average for the same month of 1942.

Sales decreased by 1 per cent in Quebec, 1 per cent in Ontario, while the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia recorded gains of 7 and 9 per cent respectively.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for July, 1942 and 1943

	July, 1942		July, 1943		Per cent change in sales
	No. Stores	Sales	No. Stores	Sales	
CANADA	917	13,594,439	888	13,747,899	+ 1.1
Quebec	183	2,838,793	174	2,816,087	- 0.8
Ontario	534	7,710,700	514	7,653,304	- 0.7
Prairie Provinces	105	1,726,351	106	1,844,354	+ 6.8
British Columbia	95	1,318,595	94	1,434,154	+ 8.8

Independent Stores

Sales of 865 independent grocery or grocery and meat stores increased in dollar volume by 17 per cent in July, 1943, over the value of business transacted in the same month of last year. The increase was shared by all regions of the country, the following gains being recorded over July, 1942: Maritimes, 23 per cent; Quebec, 15 per cent; Ontario, 17 per cent; Manitoba, 22 per cent; Saskatchewan, 17 per cent; Alberta, 20 per cent; British Columbia, 12 per cent.

Comparison of Sales Reported for July, 1942 and 1943

	No. Stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	865	739	+17.3
Maritimes	131	120	+22.7
Quebec	188	148	+14.9
Ontario	346	294	+17.1
Manitoba	55	55	+21.7
Saskatchewan	32	26	+17.2
Alberta	50	46	+20.0
British Columbia	63	50	+11.9

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, AUGUST, 1947

Indexes reflecting current trends in food distribution in Canada have been published for some years, indexes of retail and wholesale grocery sales forming components of the two regular monthly bulletins on retail and wholesale trade issued by the Internal Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This series brings together in one report the information on retail and wholesale grocery sales contained in the other bulletins thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution.

Wholesale Trade

Sales of 69 of the larger wholesale grocery companies in Canada were practically unchanged in August of this year compared with last. A substantial increase of 16 per cent was recorded for the Maritime Provinces but Quebec sales were down by 5 per cent while sales in Ontario and in Western Canada were maintained on a par with August a year ago.

Inventory holdings in the wholesale grocery trade were 12 per cent lower at the end of August, 1947 than on the corresponding date a year ago. Wholesale grocers' stocks at the end of July are normally 11 per cent in excess of the amount of business transacted during the month of August. Inventories on hand at the end of July this year just equalled August sales indicating that the stock position was below normal.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) August, 1942	Dollar Sales (add 000) August, 1943	Per Cent Change August, 1943 over August, 1942	Per Cent Change August, 1943 over July, 1943	Per Cent Change Year-to-date, 1943 1942
CANADA	69	18,608	18,944	+ 1.8	- 1.2	+ 2.4
Maritimes	13	1,841	2,140	+16.3	+ 3.2	+ 8.8
Quebec	20	3,074	2,930	- 4.7	- 3.4	+ 2.1
Ontario	19	5,752	5,840	+ 1.5	- 4.4	+ 3.2
Prairies	11	5,540	5,576	+ 0.7	+ 1.8	- 1.6
British Columbia	6	2,402	2,459	+ 2.4	- 1.3	- 2.9

Retail Trade

Chain Stores

Sales of 895 chain store units operated by 26 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 14 per cent lower in August, 1943, than sales of 924 units operated by the same 26 firms in August a year ago. Average sales per store were $13,152 in August, 1943, 11 per cent lower than the $14,819 average for the same month of 1942.

Sales decreased by 14 per cent in Quebec, 18 per cent in Ontario, 4 per cent in the Prairie Provinces and 8 per cent in British Columbia. There were only four Saturdays in August, 1943, compared with five Saturdays in August last year.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for August, 1942 and 1943

	August, 1942 No. Stores	August, 1942 Sales	August, 1943 No. Stores	August, 1943 Sales	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	924	13,692,720	895	11,771,219	-14.0
Quebec	184	2,856,197	174	2,467,095	-13.6
Ontario	538	7,745,499	521	6,382,625	-17.6
Prairie Provinces	107	1,716,897	106	1,653,960	- 3.7
British Columbia	95	1,373,727	94	1,267,539	- 7.7

Independent Stores

Sales of 874 independent grocery or grocery and meat stores increased in dollar volume by 4 per cent in August, 1943, over the value of business transacted in the same month of last year. The increase was shared by all regions of the country except British Columbia, the following gains being recorded over August, 1942: Maritimes, 8 per cent; Quebec, 3 per cent; Ontario, 4 per cent; Manitoba, 12 per cent; Saskatchewan and Alberta, 11 per cent. Sales decreased by 3 per cent in British Columbia.

Comparison of Sales Reported for August, 1942 and 1943

	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	874	542	+ 4.3
Maritimes	131	93	+ 7.7
Quebec	189	104	+ 2.8
Ontario	345	208	+ 3.5
Manitoba	56	43	+12.1
Saskatchewan	33	27	+10.6
Alberta	52	40	+10.7
British Columbia	68	27	- 3.0

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, SEPTEMBER, 1943

Indexes reflecting current trends in food distribution in Canada have been published for some years, indexes of retail and wholesale grocery sales forming components of the two regular monthly bulletins on retail and wholesale trade issued by the Internal Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This series brings together in one report the information on retail and wholesale grocery sales contained in the other bulletins thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution.

Wholesale Trade

The dollar volume of sales transacted by 72 of the larger grocery wholesale establishments increased by 2 per cent in September of this year over September, 1942. Cumulative figures for the first nine months of the current year stand 3 per cent higher than for the corresponding period last year. Quebec and Ontario reported a decline in sales of 8 per cent and 1 per cent respectively, while gains reported for the other regions were as follows: Maritimes, 14 per cent; Prairies, 3 per cent; British Columbia, 7 per cent.

Inventories held by grocery wholesalers were valued 2 per cent lower at the end of September, 1943, than on the corresponding date of last year, but increased by 5 per cent over the value of stocks reported on hand on August 31, 1943. Stocks on hand at the beginning of September are normally 5 per cent in excess of the volume of business transacted in that month. Inventories on hand at the beginning of September this year were 6 per cent in excess of September sales, indicating that the stock position at the beginning of September, 1943, was slightly above the normal position for that period of the year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) September, 1942 $	Dollar Sales (add 000) September, 1943 $	Per Cent Change September, 1943 over September, 1942	Per Cent Change September, 1943 over August, 1943	Per Cent Change Year-to-date, 1943 over 1942
CANADA	72	20,570	20,935	+ 1.8	+ 7.8	+ 2.8
Maritimes	16	2,353	2,678	+13.8	+ 5.9	+ 9.5
Quebec	19	3,210	2,964	- 7.7	+ 8.1	+ 8.6
Ontario	19	6,429	6,364	- 1.0	+ 4.0	+ 5.0
Prairies	12	6,104	6,292	+ 3.1	+ 9.9	- 1.0
British Columbia ...	6	2,474	2,637	+ 6.6	+12.4	- 1.8

Retail Sales

Chain Stores

Sales of 868 chain store units operated by 22 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 2 per cent lower in September, 1943, than sales of 892 units operated by the same 22 firms in September a year ago. Average sales per store were $13,904 in September, 1943, almost unchanged from the $13,834 average for the same month of 1942.

Sales decreased by 5 per cent in Quebec, 2 per cent in Ontario, and 5 per cent in British Columbia, while the Prairie Provinces showed an increase of 4 per cent over September last year.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for September, 1942 and 1943

	September, 1942		September, 1943		Per cent change in sales
	No. Stores	Sales $	No. Stores	Sales $	
CANADA	892	12,339,666	868	12,068,650	- 2.2
Quebec	180	2,578,450	172	2,453,237	- 4.9
Ontario	511	6,773,311	497	6,617,186	- 2.3
Prairie Provinces	106	1,674,816	105	1,746,719	+ 4.3
British Columbia	95	1,313,089	94	1,251,508	- 4.7

Independent Stores

Sales of 889 independent grocery or grocery and meat stores increased in dollar volume by 8 per cent in September, 1943, over the value of business transacted in the same month of last year. The increase was shared by all regions of the country except British Columbia, the following gains being recorded over September, 1942: Maritimes, 4 per cent; Quebec, 8 per cent; Ontario, 9 per cent; Manitoba, 8 per cent; Saskatchewan, 13 per cent and Alberta, 8 per cent. Sales were practically unchanged in British Columbia.

Comparison of Sales Reported for September, 1942 and 1943

	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	889	646	+ 8.3
Maritimes	132	109	+11.4
Quebec	182	133	+ 8.2
Ontario	355	252	+ 8.6
Manitoba	58	43	+ 8.4
Saskatchewan	33	29	+12.6
Alberta	61	48	+ 8.4
British Columbia	68	32	- 0.4

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, OCTOBER, 1943

Indexes reflecting current trends in food distribution in Canada have been published for some years, indexes of retail and wholesale grocery sales forming components of the two regular monthly bulletins on retail and wholesale trade issued by the Internal Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This series brings together in one report the information on retail and wholesale grocery sales contained in the other bulletins thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution.

Wholesale Trade

Reports received from 70 of the larger grocery wholesale establishments indicated a 7 per cent decline in sales in Ontario 1943, compared with October of last year. The dollar volume of business transacted during the month decreased 10 per cent from September, 1943. Cumulative figures for the ten-month period of the current year stand 2 per cent higher than for the corresponding period last year. The 7 per cent decline below October, 1942 reflects a falling off in wholesale grocery trading in all regions of the country except the Maritime Provinces where sales increased 11 per cent. Dollar sales decreased by 15 per cent in the Prairies; 11 per cent in Quebec; 9 per cent in British Columbia; and 3 per cent in Ontario.

Stocks on hand at the end of October, 1943, were valued 4 per cent higher than on the corresponding date of last year, and increased by 10 per cent over the value of stocks reported on hand September 30, 1943. Stocks on hand at the beginning of October are normally 18 per cent in excess of the amount of business transacted in that month. Stocks on hand at the beginning of October of this year were 10 per cent in excess of the volume of business transacted, indicating that the stock position at the beginning of October, 1943, was below the normal position for that period of the year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) October, 1942 $	Dollar Sales (add 000) October, 1943 $	Per Cent Change October, 1943 over October, 1942	Per Cent Change October, 1943 over September 1943	Per Cent Change Year-to-date, 1943 1942
CANADA	70	19,947	18,585	- 6.8	-10.0	+ 2.4
Maritimes	14	2,053	2,276	+10.9	+ 1.5	+ 9.6
Quebec	18	3,172	2,840	-10.5	+ 0.9	- 0.6
Ontario	20	6,202	6,026	- 2.8	-12.8	+ 3.7
Prairies	12	6,020	5,138	-14.7	-19.4	- 2.5
British Columbia	6	2,499	2,306	- 8.7	-11.9	- 2.4

Retail Sales

Chain Stores

Sales of 951 chain store units operated by 27 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 7 per cent lower in October, 1943, than sales of 975 units operated by the same 27 firms in October a year ago. Average sales per store were $14,102 in October, 1943, 4 per cent lower than the $14,741 average for the same month of 1942.

Sales decreased by 12 per cent in Quebec, 6 per cent in Ontario, 2 per cent in the Prairie Provinces and 9 per cent in British Columbia.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for October, 1942 and 1943

	October, 1942 No. Stores	October, 1942 Sales $	October, 1943 No. Stores	October, 1943 Sales $	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	975	14,372,660	951	13,410,915	- 6.7
Quebec	181	3,066,054	174	2,706,947	-11.7
Ontario	532	7,863,507	518	7,424,985	- 5.6
Prairie Provinces	149	1,978,627	148	1,947,090	- 1.6
British Columbia	113	1,464,472	111	1,331,893	- 9.1

Independent Stores

Sales of 877 independent grocery or grocery and meat stores increased in dollar volume by 6 per cent in October, 1943, over the value of business transacted in the same month of last year. The increase was shared by all regions of the country except British Columbia, the following gains being recorded over October, 1942; Maritimes, 9 per cent; Quebec, 4 per cent; Ontario, 6 per cent; Manitoba, 9 per cent; Saskatchewan, 10 per cent; and Alberta, 14 per cent. Sales were practically unchanged in British Columbia.

Comparison of Sales Reported for October, 1942 and 1943

	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	877	598	+ 6.0
Maritimes	127	92	+ 8.5
Quebec	186	118	+ 4.0
Ontario	352	233	+ 5.8
Manitoba	59	45	+ 8.7
Saskatchewan	33	27	+10.0
Alberta	56	47	+14.3
British Columbia	64	36	+ 0.2

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, NOVEMBER, 1943

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Wholesale Trade

Sales of 71 of the larger grocery wholesale establishments increased by 8 per cent in November, 1943, over the dollar volume of business transacted in November, 1942, and were 2 per cent higher than sales in October, 1943. Cumulative figures for the January-November period show an increase of 2 per cent over the corresponding period of the preceding year. The 8 per cent increase over November, 1942 is indicative of an increase in trading activities in all regions of the country. Gains reported were as follows: Maritime Provinces, 22 per cent; Quebec, 4 per cent; Ontario, 11 per cent; Prairie Provinces, 5 per cent; British Columbia, 5 per cent.

The comparison between stocks on hand at the end of November of 1942 and 1943 indicated a 2 per cent gain in stock holdings. Inventories were valued 8 per cent higher on November 30, than at the end of October, 1943. Stocks at the beginning of November are normally 43 per cent in excess of the amount of business transacted in that month. Stocks at the beginning of November, 1943 were 15 per cent in excess of the volume of business transacted, indicating that the inventory position at the beginning of November, 1943, had dropped considerably below the normal position for that period of the year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) November, 1942 $	Dollar Sales (add 000) November, 1943 $	Per Cent Change November, 1943 over November, 1942	Per Cent Change November, 1943 over October, 1943	Per Cent Change Year-to-date, 1943 over 1942
CANADA	71	18,039	19,551	+ 8.4	+ 2.3	+ 1.9
Maritimes	13	1,939	2,361	+21.8	+ 4.4	+10.6
Quebec	20	3,121	3,236	+ 3.7	+ 0.2	- 0.2
Ontario	20	5,523	6,133	+11.0	+ 0.2	+ 4.9
Prairies	12	5,086	5,333	+ 4.9	+ 3.3	- 1.7
British Columbia	6	2,370	2,488	+ 5.0	+ 6.5	- 1.8

Retail Sales

Chain Stores

Sales of 910 chain store units operated by 27 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 1 per cent lower in November, 1943, than sales of 936 units operated by the same 27 firms in November a year ago. Average sales per store were $13,506 in November, 1943, 2 per cent higher than the $13,233 average for the same month of 1942.

Sales decreased by 1 per cent in Quebec, 1 per cent in the Prairie Provinces and 7 per cent in British Columbia, while an increase of approximately 1 per cent occured in Ontario.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for November, 1942 and 1943

	November, 1942 No. Stores	November, 1942 Sales $	November, 1943 No. Stores	November, 1943 Sales $	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	936	12,386,351	910	12,290,099	- 0.8
Quebec	181	2,591,661	174	2,558,736	- 1.3
Ontario	532	6,920,943	517	6,964,495	+ 0.6
Prairie Provinces	110	1,551,951	108	1,530,969	- 1.3
British Columbia	113	1,321,796	111	1,235,899	- 6.5

Independent Stores

Sales of 873 independent grocery or grocery and meat stores increased in dollar volume by 8 per cent in November, 1943, over the value of business transacted in the same month of last year. The increase was shared by all regions of the country, the following gains being recorded over November, 1942; Maritimes, 11 per cent; Quebec, 5 per cent; Ontario, 7 per cent; Manitoba, 16 per cent; Saskatchewan, 17 per cent; Alberta, 17 per cent and British Columbia, 7 per cent.

Comparison of Sales Reported for November, 1942 and 1943

	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	873	648	+ 8.1
Maritimes	125	101	+10.8
Quebec	187	124	+ 5.2
Ontario	347	254	+ 7.2
Manitoba	51	44	+16.2
Saskatchewan	29	26	+17.1
Alberta	60	55	+16.5
British Columbia	74	44	+ 6.6

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, DECEMBER, 1943

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Wholesale Trade

December sales transacted by 72 of the larger grocery wholesale establishments increased 9 per cent over the dollar volume of business reported in December, 1942, and were on a par with sales made during November, 1943. Cumulative figures in the annual comparison recorded a 3 per cent increase over the 1942 sales. The 9 per cent increase over December, 1942 reflects major gains reported in the Maritimes, Quebec and Ontario which were offset by a smaller increase in the Prairies and a decided decline in sales in British Columbia. Gains reported were as follows: Maritimes, 25 per cent; Quebec, 19 per cent; Ontario, 11 per cent; Prairies, 8 per cent. Sales in British Columbia fell 12 per cent below the 1942 level.

Inventories held at the end of December, 1943 were valued 6 per cent higher than the stocks on hand at the end of December, 1942, and increased by 9 per cent over the stock holdings reported on November 30, 1943. Stocks at the beginning of December are normally 64 per cent in excess of the volume of business transacted in that month. Stocks at the beginning of December, 1943 were 15 per cent in excess of the volume of business transacted, indicating that the inventory position at the beginning of December, 1943 had dropped considerably below the normal position for that period of the year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per Cent Change		
		December, 1942	December, 1943	December, 1943 over December, 1942	December, 1943 over November, 1943	Year-to-date, 1943 1942
		$	$			
CANADA	72	17,776	19,361	+ 8.9	- 0.5	+ 2.5
Maritimes	15	1,907	2,387	+25.2	- 8.3	+11.5
Quebec	20	2,355	2,790	+18.5	+ 8.0	+ 1.4
Ontario	19	5,591	6,192	+10.7	+ 3.0	+ 5.4
Prairies	12	5,160	5,566	+ 7.9	+ 6.5	- 0.1
British Columbia	6	2,763	2,426	-12.2	- 5.5	- 2.7

Retail Sales

Chain Stores

Sales of 929 chain store units operated by 27 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 6 per cent higher in December, 1943, than sales of 952 units operated by the same 27 firms in December a year ago. Average sales per store were $15,985 in December, 1943, 9 per cent higher than the $14,721 average for the same month of 1942.

Sales increased by 8 per cent in Quebec, 10 per cent in Ontario, while decreases of 1 and 7 per cent occurred in the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia respectively.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for December, 1942 and 1943

	December, 1942		December, 1943		Per cent change in sales
	No. Stores	Sales	No. Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	952	14,014,156	929	14,850,037	+ 6.0
Quebec	181	2,845,390	174	3,067,475	+ 7.8
Ontario	532	7,676,305	517	8,407,256	+ 9.5
Prairie Provinces	145	1,980,873	144	1,966,726	- 0.7
British Columbia	94	1,511,588	94	1,408,580	- 6.8

Independent Stores

Sales of 862 independent grocery or grocery and meat stores increased in dollar volume by 7 per cent in December, 1943, over the value of business transacted in the same month of last year. The increase was shared by all regions of the country, the following gains being recorded over December, 1942; Maritimes, 10 per cent; Quebec, 6 per cent; Ontario, 5 per cent; Manitoba, 14 per cent; Saskatchewan, 13 per cent; Alberta, 15 per cent and British Columbia, 4 per cent.

Comparison of Sales Reported for December, 1942 and 1943

	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	862	635	+ 6.8
Maritimes	125	102	+ 9.8
Quebec	187	118	+ 6.0
Ontario	340	246	+ 4.8
Manitoba	56	49	+13.6
Saskatchewan	32	28	+13.1
Alberta	53	48	+15.1
British Columbia	69	44	+ 4.1

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, JANUARY, 1944

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Wholesale Trade

January wholesale grocery sales increased 10 per cent over the dollar volume of business transacted in January, 1943, according to reports received from 72 of the larger grocery houses, but were valued 12 per cent lower than December sales. All regions of the country shared in the 10 per cent increase. Results on a regional basis indicate substantial gains in the Maritimes, the Prairies and British Columbia and smaller increases in Quebec and Ontario. Percentage gains for economic divisions are as follows: Maritimes, 26 per cent; Quebec, 2 per cent; Ontario, 7 per cent; Prairies, 11 per cent; British Columbia, 10 per cent.

Inventories in the hands of wholesale grocers at the end of January, 1944, were valued 13 per cent higher than on the same date last year, but decreased by 1 per cent from the year-end stock position. Stocks at the beginning of January are normally 63 per cent in excess of the volume of business transacted in that month. Stocks at the beginning of January this year exceeded sales transacted during the month by 53 per cent, indicating that the inventory position at the commencement of this year was somewhat below the normal level for that period of the year.

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, FEBRUARY, 1944

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Wholesale Trade

Dollar volume of sales transacted by 73 of the larger wholesale grocery houses during February averaged 15 per cent higher than the value of sales realized in February, 1943, and increased by 10 per cent over January. The 15 per cent gain over February last year reflects an increase in trading activities in each of the economic divisions of the country. Gains recorded on a regional basis are as follows: Maritime Provinces, 19 per cent; Quebec, 12 per cent; Ontario, 16 per cent; Prairie Provinces, 17 per cent; British Columbia, 10 per cent.

Wholesale grocers reported the value of stocks held at the end of February to be 12 per cent higher than the inventories held on the same date last year, but decreased by 1 per cent from the January month-end stock position. Stocks at the beginning of February are normally 66 per cent in excess of the volume of business transacted in that month. Stocks at the beginning of February this year exceeded sales transacted during the month by 44 per cent, indicating that the inventory position at the beginning of February was considerably below the normal level for that period of the year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) February, 1943	Dollar Sales (add 000) February, 1944	Per cent change February, 1944 over February, 1943	Per cent change February, 1944 over January, 1944
		$	$		
CANADA	73	15,843	18,229	+15.1	+ 9.5
Maritimes	15	1,894	2,259	+19.3	- 3.6
Quebec	21	2,437	2,740	+12.4	+21.1
Ontario	20	4,742	5,482	+15.6	+10.1
Prairies	11	4,521	5,275	+16.7	+11.8
British Columbia	6	2,249	2,473	+10.0	+ 8.9

Retail Sales

Chain Stores

Sales of 949 chain store units operated by 26 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 13 per cent higher in February, 1944, than sales of 970 units operated by the same 26 firms in February a year ago. Average sales per store were $13,934 in February, 1944, 15 per cent higher than the $12,067 average for the same month of 1943.

Sales increased by 13 per cent in Quebec, 16 per cent in Ontario, 7 per cent in the Prairie Provinces, and 4 per cent in British Columbia.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for February, 1943 and 1944

	February, 1943		February, 1944		Per cent change in sales
	No. Stores	Sales	No. Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	970	11,704,640	949	13,223,447	+13.0
Quebec	178	2,491,914	174	2,809,216	+12.7
Ontario	533	6,359,128	519	7,407,511	+16.5
Prairie Provinces	148	1,601,718	145	1,706,495	+ 6.5
British Columbia	111	1,251,880	111	1,300,225	+ 3.9

Independent Stores

Sales of 877 independent grocery or grocery and meat stores increased in dollar volume by 7 per cent in February, 1944, over the value of business transacted in the same month of last year. The following gains were recorded over February, 1943; Maritimes, 10 per cent; Quebec, 6 per cent; Ontario, 5 per cent; Manitoba and Saskatchewan, each show an increase of 16 per cent; Alberta, 19 per cent and British Columbia, 6 per cent.

Comparison of Sales Reported for February, 1943 and 1944

	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	877	651	+ 7.0
Maritimes	129	100	+ 9.5
Quebec	181	125	+ 5.6
Ontario	349	246	+ 4.5
Manitoba	58	46	+15.6
Saskatchewan	31	29	+16.2
Alberta	58	51	+18.7
British Columbia	71	54	+ 5.5

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, MARCH, 1944

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Wholesale Trade

March sales increased 13 per cent over the dollar business realized in March last year, according to the data received from 70 of the larger wholesale grocery houses, and averaged 18 per cent higher than February sales. The Maritime Provinces reported 20 per cent more business transacted, while a gain of 13 per cent was reported by both Ontario and British Columbia, and sales increased by 11 per cent in Quebec and the Prairie Provinces. Cumulative sales for the January-March period stand 12 per cent higher than sales for the same three months of last year.

Inventories in the hands of wholesale grocers at the end of March were valued 16 per cent higher than the stocks reported on hand on March 31, 1943, but declined by 2 per cent from the February month end inventory position. Stocks at the beginning of March are normally 49 per cent in excess of the volume of business transacted in that month. Stocks at the beginning of March this year exceeded sales transacted during the month by 23 per cent, indicating that the inventory position at the beginning of March was considerably below the normal level for that period of the year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) March, 1943	Dollar Sales (add 000) March, 1944	Per cent change March, 1944 over March, 1943	Per cent change March, 1944 over February, 1944	Per cent change Year-to-date, 1944 Year-to-date, 1943
		$	$			
CANADA	70	17,831	20,121	+12.8	+16.0	+12.4
Maritimes	16	2,419	2,897	+19.7	+26.1	+20.3
Quebec	18	1,991	2,200	+10.5	+16.7	+ 8.5
Ontario	20	5,725	6,455	+12.8	+17.7	+11.3
Prairies	10	5,182	5,733	+10.7	+12.7	+12.2
British Columbia	6	2,514	2,831	+12.6	+11.4	+10.9

Retail Sales

Chain Stores

Sales of 910 chain store units operated by 25 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 13 per cent higher in March, 1944, than sales of 928 units operated by the same 25 firms in March a year ago. Average sales per store were $15,927 in March, 1944, 15 per cent higher than the $13,837 average for the same month of 1943.

Sales increased by 13 per cent in Quebec, 15 per cent in Ontario, 9 per cent in the Prairie Provinces, and 8 per cent in British Columbia.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for March, 1943 and 1944

	March, 1943		March, 1944		Per cent change in sales
	No. Stores	Sales	No. Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	928	12,840,642	910	14,493,300	+12.9
Quebec	176	2,778,809	174	3,140,593	+13.0
Ontario	532	7,133,881	519	8,181,908	+14.7
Prairie Provinces ...	109	1,595,443	106	1,732,985	+ 8.6
British Columbia	111	1,332,509	111	1,427,811	+ 7.9

Independent Stores

Sales of 870 independent grocery or grocery and meat stores increased in dollar volume by 8 per cent in March, 1944, over the value of business transacted in the same month of last year. The following gains were recorded over March, 1943; Maritimes, 10 per cent; Quebec, 8 per cent; Ontario, 6 per cent; Manitoba, 18 per cent; Saskatchewan, 15 per cent; Alberta, 19 per cent and British Columbia, 4 per cent.

Comparison of Sales Reported for March, 1943 and 1944

	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	870	662	+ 8.3
Maritimes	126	97	+ 9.8
Quebec	176	126	+ 8.2
Ontario	350	260	+ 6.0
Manitoba	58	47	+17.5
Saskatchewan	28	25	+15.4
Alberta	62	57	+18.5
British Columbia	70	50	+ 3.7

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, APRIL, 1944

Indexes reflecting current trends in food distribution in Canada have been published for some years, indexes of retail and wholesale grocery sales forming components of the two regular monthly bulletins on retail and wholesale trade issued by the Merchandising and Services Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This series brings together in one report the information on retail and wholesale grocery sales contained in the other bulletins thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution.

Wholesale Trade

Statements received from 74 of the larger wholesale grocery houses in Canada indicated that sales transacted during April were 6 per cent greater than the dollar sales realized in April, 1943, but were 11 per cent lower than March sales. Quebec reported a 4 per cent decline which was offset by increases of 6 per cent in the Maritime Provinces, 6 per cent in Ontario, 9 per cent in British Columbia and 11 per cent in the Prairie Provinces. The decline from the March level of trading was felt in all regions of the country, decreases ranging from 9 per cent in Quebec to 15 per cent in the Maritimes. Cumulative sales for the first four months of the year have increased 9 per cent over the same period of last year.

Wholesale grocers valued their stocks on hand at the end of April, 1944, 15 per cent higher than the inventories held at the end of April last year, but the inventory position declined by 2 per cent from the stock holdings reported at the end of March. Stocks at the beginning of April are normally 35 per cent in excess of the volume of business transacted in that month. Stocks at the beginning of April this year exceeded sales transacted during the month by 34 per cent, indicating that the inventory position at the beginning of April was on a par with the normal level for that period of the year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) April, 1943 $	Dollar Sales (add 000) April, 1944 $	Per cent change: April, 1944 over April, 1943	Per cent change: April, 1944 over March, 1944	Per cent change: Year-to-date, 1944 Year-to-date, 1943
CANADA	74	17,317	18,366	+ 6.1	-11.4	+ 9.2
Maritimes	15	2,166	2,296	+ 6.0	-15.2	+16.4
Quebec	21	2,856	2,732	- 4.4	- 8.9	+ 3.9
Ontario	20	5,240	5,563	+ 6.2	-10.4	+10.2
Prairies	12	4,795	5,302	+10.6	-13.0	+11.6
British Columbia ..	6	2,260	2,473	+ 9.4	-10.8	+10.5

Retail Sales

Chain Stores

Sales of 949 chain store units operated by 27 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 8 per cent higher in April, 1944, than sales of 962 units operated by the same 27 firms in April a year ago. Average sales per store were $15,408 in April, 1944, 10 per cent higher than the $14,015 average for the same month of 1943.

Sales increased by 7 per cent in Quebec, 11 per cent in Ontario, 5 per cent in the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia respectively.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for April, 1943 and 1944

	April, 1943 No. Stores	April, 1943 Sales $	April, 1944 No. Stores	April, 1944 Sales $	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	962	13,482,618	949	14,621,791	+ 8.4
Quebec	173	2,868,709	174	3,065,094	+ 6.8
Ontario	534	7,411,082	523	8,198,862	+10.6
Prairie Provinces	144	1,833,199	142	1,923,444	+ 4.9
British Columbia	111	1,369,628	110	1,434,391	+ 4.7

Independent Stores

Sales of 859 independent grocery or grocery and meat stores increased in dollar volume by 4 per cent in April, 1944, over the value of business transacted in the same month of last year. The following gains were recorded over April, 1943: Maritimes, 9 per cent; Quebec, 5 per cent; Ontario, 1 per cent; Manitoba, 9 per cent; Saskatchewan, 3 per cent; Alberta, 11 per cent while British Columbia, decreased fractionally over the same month last year.

Comparison of Sales Reported for April, 1943 and 1944

	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	859	568	+ 4.0
Maritimes	120	85	+ 9.4
Quebec	182	124	+ 4.9
Ontario	344	212	+ 1.2
Manitoba	56	41	+ 8.5
Saskatchewan	28	20	+ 2.9
Alberta	61	50	+10.8
British Columbia	68	36	- 0.5

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, MAY, 1944

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Wholesale Trade

Wholesale grocery sales increased 21 per cent in May, 1944, over the volume of business transacted in May last year, according to the data received from 75 of the larger wholesale grocery houses in Canada, and were 14 per cent higher than the dollar sales realized in April. All regions of the country shared in the 21 per cent gain, increases ranging from 9 per cent in Quebec to 29 per cent in British Columbia. Cumulative sales for the first five months of the year stand 12 per cent higher than for the corresponding period of last year.

Inventories in the hands of wholesale grocers at the end of May were valued 15 per cent higher than the stock holdings reported at the close of May, 1943. Stocks at the beginning of May are normally 26 per cent in excess of the volume of trading transacted in that month. Stocks at the beginning of May this year were 11 per cent in excess of sales transacted during the month, indicating that the inventory position at the beginning of May was considerably below the normal level for that period of the year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) May, 1943 $	Dollar Sales (add 000) May, 1944 $	Per cent change May, 1944 over May, 1943	Per cent change May, 1944 over April, 1944	Per cent change Year-to-date, 1944 Year-to-date, 1943
CANADA	75	17,741	21,447	+20.9	+14.2	+11.6
Maritimes	16	2,365	2,820	+19.2	+17.6	+17.0
Quebec	20	2,931	3,194	+ 9.0	+16.1	+ 4.9
Ontario	21	5,246	6,205	+18.3	+10.4	+11.8
Prairies	12	4,835	6,172	+27.7	+18.0	+14.8
British Columbia	6	2,364	3,056	+29.2	+18.1	+14.2

Retail Sales

Chain Stores

Sales of 938 chain store units operated by 27 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 4 per cent higher in May, 1944, than sales of 952 units operated by the same 27 firms in May a year ago. Average sales per store were $15,507 in May, 1944, 5 per cent higher than the $14,746 average for the same month of 1943.

Sales increased by 4 per cent in Quebec, 5 per cent in Ontario and 1 per cent in the Prairie Provinces, while British Columbia sales showed a decrease of 1 per cent.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for May, 1943 and 1944

	May, 1943 No. Stores	May, 1943 Sales $	May, 1944 No. Stores	May, 1944 Sales $	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	952	14,038,232	938	14,545,365	+ 3.6
Quebec	174	2,897,543	172	3,016,562	+ 4.1
Ontario	524	7,734,016	516	8,119,423	+ 5.0
Prairie Provinces	143	1,934,349	142	1,950,031	+ 0.8
British Columbia	111	1,472,324	108	1,459,349	- 0.9

Independent Stores

Sales of 857 independent grocery or grocery and meat stores increased by less than 1 per cent in dollar volume in May, 1944, over the value of business transacted in the same month of last year. The following gains were recorded over May, 1943: Maritimes, 6 per cent; Manitoba, 7 per cent; Saskatchewan, 1 per cent and Alberta, 7 per cent. Decreases of 2 per cent occurred in both Quebec and Ontario and a 1 per cent decline was recorded in British Columbia.

Comparison of Sales Reported for May, 1943 and 1944

	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	857	461	+ 0.4
Maritimes	126	74	+ 6.3
Quebec	175	87	- 1.7
Ontario	339	165	- 1.6
Manitoba	60	41	+ 6.5
Saskatchewan	33	22	+ 0.8
Alberta	57	40	+ 6.9
British Columbia	67	32	- 1.1

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, JUNE, 1944

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Wholesale Trade

Statements received from 75 of the larger wholesale grocery establishments in Canada revealed that the value of wholesale grocery sales transacted during June, 1944, were 10 per cent higher than the dollar sales realized in June of last year, and the June volume of business exceeded May sales by 3 per cent. The 10 per cent increase reflects an active grocery trading market in each of the provinces, but sales expanded to a lesser degree in British Columbia than in the other regions and declined 3 per cent from the May volume of business in that province. Gains recorded for the economic regions are as follows: Maritimes, 11 per cent; Quebec, 9 per cent; Ontario, 11 per cent; Prairies, 11 per cent; British Columbia, 3 per cent. Cumulative sales in all regions for the first half of this year were 11 per cent higher than the January-June period of last year.

Inventories held by wholesale grocers at the end of June were valued 15 per cent higher than on the same date of last year, but the inventory position at the end of June declined by 6 per cent from the May month-end level. Stocks at the beginning of June are normally 20 per cent in excess of the volume of business transacted during that month. Stocks at the beginning of June this year exceeded the sales of this month by 6 per cent, indicating that the inventory position at the beginning of June was considerably below the normal level for that period of the year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) June, 1943 $	Dollar Sales (add 000) June, 1944 $	Per cent change June, 1944 over June, 1943	Per cent change June, 1944 over May, 1944	Per cent change Year-to-date, 1944 Year-to-date, 1943
CANADA	75	20,044	21,978	+ 9.6	+ 2.5	+10.8
Maritimes	16	2,564	2,854	+11.3	+ 1.9	+15.9
Quebec	21	3,024	3,299	+ 9.1	+ 0.4	+ 5.6
Ontario	20	5,900	6,570	+11.3	+ 5.9	+11.7
Prairies	12	5,716	6,319	+10.6	+ 1.7	+14.0
British Columbia	6	2,840	2,936	+ 3.4	- 2.8	+12.1

Retail Sales

Chain Stores

Sales of 877 chain store units operated by 22 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 22 per cent higher in June, 1944, than sales of 889 units operated by the same 22 firms in June a year ago. Average sales per store were $17,456 in June, 1944, 24 per cent higher than the $14,117 average for the same month of 1943.

Sales increased by 25 per cent in Quebec, 23 per cent in Ontario, 20 per cent in the Prairie Provinces and 13 per cent in British Columbia.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for June, 1943 and 1944

	June, 1943		June, 1944		Per cent change in sales
	No. Stores	Sales $	No. Stores	Sales $	
CANADA	889	12,550,018	877	15,308,720	+22.0
Quebec	174	2,636,960	171	3,290,994	+24.8
Ontario	517	6,968,038	511	8,580,984	+23.2
Prairie Provinces	104	1,593,782	101	1,915,004	+20.2
British Columbia	94	1,351,238	94	1,521,738	+12.6

Independent Stores

Sales of 843 independent grocery or grocery and meat stores increased by 10 per cent in dollar volume in June, 1944, over the value of business transacted in the same month of last year. The following gains were recorded over June, 1943: Alberta, 16 per cent; Maritime Provinces and Manitoba, 12 per cent; Saskatchewan, 11 per cent; Ontario, 9 per cent; Quebec and British Columbia, 8 per cent.

Comparison of Sales Reported for June, 1943 and 1944

	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	843	668	+ 9.5
Maritimes	116	97	+12.3
Quebec	176	125	+ 7.9
Ontario	343	270	+ 8.6
Manitoba	55	44	+12.3
Saskatchewan	30	27	+11.4
Alberta	57	50	+15.9
British Columbia	66	55	+ 8.4

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, JULY, 1944

Indexes reflecting current trends in food distribution in Canada have been published for some years, indexes of retail and wholesale grocery sales forming components of the two regular monthly bulletins on retail and wholesale trade issued by the Merchandising and Services Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This series brings together in one report the information on retail and wholesale grocery sales contained in the other bulletins thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution.

Wholesale Trade

Wholesale grocery sales were 6 per cent higher in July of this year than last, according to reports received from 80 of the larger wholesale grocery establishments in Canada, but the July volume of trading declined 5 per cent from the June, 1944 level. Results on a regional basis varied greatly, increases over July, 1943, ranging from 3 per cent in Quebec and British Columbia to 12 per cent in the Prairie Provinces. Aggregate totals for the January-July period of this year stand 10 per cent higher than for the same period of last year.

Stocks in the hands of wholesale grocers were valued 15 per cent greater at the end of July this year than on the same date of 1943, but the July month-end inventory was 1 per cent below the June level. Stocks at the beginning of July are normally 7 per cent in excess of the volume of business transacted during that month. Stocks at the beginning of July this year exceeded sales transacted during the month by 3 per cent, indicating that the inventory situation at the beginning of July was below the normal level for that period of the year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) July, 1943 $	Dollar Sales (add 000) July, 1944 $	Per cent change July, 1944 over July, 1943	Per cent change July, 1944 over June, 1944	Per cent change Year-to-date, 1944 Year-to-date, 1943
CANADA	80	19,378	20,628	+ 6.4	- 5.2	+10.1
Maritimes	17	2,589	2,751	+ 6.2	- 6.7	+14.4
Quebec	23	3,051	3,140	+ 2.9	- 4.7	+ 5.1
Ontario	22	5,968	6,270	+ 5.1	- 6.8	+ 1.4
Prairies	12	5,276	5,908	+12.0	+ 0.1	+13.7
British Columbia	6	2,494	2,559	+ 2.6	-12.6	+10.7

Retail Sales

Chain Stores

Sales of 925 chain store units operated by 25 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 3 per cent lower in July, 1944, than sales of 936 units operated by the same 25 firms in July a year ago. Average sales per store were $14,629 in July, 1944, 2 per cent lower than the $14,953 average for the same month of 1943.

Sales decreased by 1 per cent in Quebec, 3 per cent in Ontario, 4 per cent in the Prairie Provinces and 8 per cent in British Columbia.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for July, 1943 and 1944

	July, 1943 No. Stores	July, 1943 Sales $	July, 1944 No. Stores	July, 1944 Sales $	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	936	13,996,038	925	13,531,466	- 3.3
Quebec	174	2,816,087	171	2,787,120	- 1.0
Ontario	521	7,696,938	516	7,467,458	- 3.0
Prairie Provinces	147	2,048,859	144	1,960,491	- 4.3
British Columbia	94	1,434,154	94	1,316,397	- 8.2

Independent Stores

Sales of 938 independent grocery or grocery and meat stores decreased by 3 per cent in dollar volume in July, 1944, from the value of business transacted in the same month of last year. The following decreases below July, 1943 were recorded for various provinces: Maritimes and Quebec, 2 per cent; Ontario, 6 per cent, Manitoba, 7 per cent; Saskatchewan and British Columbia, 1 per cent. An increase of 2 per cent was recorded in Alberta.

Comparison of Sales Reported for July, 1943 and 1944

	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	938	390	- 3.3
Maritimes	157	73	- 2.0
Quebec	208	97	- 1.6
Ontario	329	111	- 6.0
Manitoba	72	25	- 6.6
Saskatchewan	32	15	- 1.0
Alberta	71	35	+ 1.8
British Columbia	69	34	- 1.0

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, AUGUST, 1944

Indexes reflecting current trends in food distribution in Canada have been published for some years, indexes of retail and wholesale grocery sales forming components of the two regular monthly bulletins on retail and wholesale trade issued by the Merchandising and Services Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This series brings together in one report the information on retail and wholesale grocery sales contained in the other bulletins thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution.

Wholesale Trade

Dollar sales transacted by wholesale grocers were valued 19 per cent higher in August of this year than last, according to reports received from 75 of the larger wholesale grocery establishments in Canada, and the August sales exceeded July trading by 10 per cent. Gains recorded for the economic divisions are as follows: Maritimes, 12 per cent; Quebec, 15 per cent; Ontario, 23 per cent; Prairies, 23 per cent; British Columbia, 11 per cent. Cumulative sales for the eight months of the current year were 12 per cent greater than sales reported for the same period of 1943.

Wholesale grocers valued their inventories 6 per cent higher at the end of August, 1944 than on the same date of last year, but the dollar value of merchandise remained unchanged from stock holdings reported at the end of July. Stocks at the beginning of August are normally 11 per cent in excess of the volume of business transacted during that month. Stocks at the beginning of August this year were 6 per cent below sales transacted during the month, indicating that the inventory position at the beginning of August was considerably below the normal level for that period of the year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) August, 1943	Dollar Sales (add 000) August, 1944	Per cent change August, 1944 over August, 1943	Per cent change August, 1944 over July, 1944	Per cent change Year-to-date, 1944 Year-to-date, 1943
		$	$			
CANADA	75	18,999	22,511	+18.5	+ 9.5	+11.8
Maritimes	17	2,594	2,891	+11.5	+ 2.4	+14.1
Quebec	20	2,867	3,293	+14.9	+ 9.0	+ 6.4
Ontario	23	5,710	7,008	+22.7	+11.4	+12.2
Prairies	9	5,370	6,583	+22.6	+11.2	+15.0
British Columbia	6	2,458	2,736	+11.3	+ 6.5	+ 7.6

Retail Sales

Chain Stores

Sales of 901 chain store units operated by 22 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 15 per cent higher in August, 1944, than sales of 912 units operated by the same 22 firms in August a year ago. Average sales per store were $14,986 in August, 1944, 16 per cent higher than the $12,919 average for the same month of 1943.

Sales increased by 12 per cent in Quebec and the Prairie Provinces, 18 per cent in Ontario, and 6 per cent in British Columbia.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for August, 1943 and 1944

	August, 1943		August, 1944		Per cent change in sales
	No. Stores	Sales	No. Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	912	11,782,056	901	13,502,835	+14.6
Quebec	174	2,471,772	171	2,778,730	+12.4
Ontario	501	6,251,413	496	7,378,429	+18.0
Prairie Provinces	143	1,791,224	140	2,004,326	+11.9
British Columbia	94	1,267,647	94	1,341,350	+ 5.8

Independent Stores

Sales of 954 independent grocery or grocery and meat stores increased 6 per cent in dollar volume in August, 1944, over the value of business transacted in the same month of last year. The largest increase recorded for the various provinces was a 10 per cent gain in Alberta. Increases of 8 per cent occurred in the Maritime Provinces, Saskatchewan and British Columbia. The following advances occurred in other provinces: 6 per cent in Quebec, 5 per cent in Ontario and 4 per cent in Manitoba.

Comparison of Sales Reported for August, 1943 and 1944

	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	954	670	+ 6.1
Maritimes	149	103	+ 7.6
Quebec	223	157	+ 6.1
Ontario	340	235	+ 4.6
Manitoba	76	52	+ 3.9
Saskatchewan	31	24	+ 8.0
Alberta	67	48	+ 9.8
British Columbia	68	51	+ 8.4

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, SEPTEMBER, 1944

Indexes reflecting current trends in food distribution in Canada have been published for some years, indexes of retail and wholesale grocery sales forming components of the two regular monthly bulletins on retail and wholesale trade issued by the Merchandising and Services Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This series brings together in one report the information on retail and wholesale grocery sales contained in the other bulletins thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution.

Wholesale Trade

Wholesale grocery sales transacted by 76 of the larger wholesale grocery establishments in Canada during September, 1944, increased 12 per cent over the dollar volume of business reported in September, 1943, and 2 per cent over August, 1944. All regions of the country shared in the 12 per cent gain, increases registered by the various economic divisions being as follows: Maritime Provinces, 14 per cent; Quebec, 16 per cent; Ontario, 9 per cent; Prairie Provinces, 11 per cent, and British Columbia, 13 per cent. Aggregate figures for the January-September period of 1944 stand 12 per cent above sales for the same period of 1943.

Inventories in the hands of wholesale grocers were valued 9 per cent higher at the end of September this year than last, and were 3 per cent greater than the stocks held at the end of August, 1944. Stocks at the beginning of September are normally 10 per cent in excess of the volume of business transacted during that month. Stocks at the beginning of September this year were 8 per cent below sales transacted during the month, indicating that the inventory position at the beginning of September was considerably below the normal level for that period of the year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change		
		September, 1943	September, 1944	September, 1944 over September, 1943	September, 1944 over August, 1944	Year-to-date, 1944 over Year-to-date, 1943
		$	$			
CANADA	76	20,804	23,277	+11.9	+ 1.5	+11.8
Maritimes	17	2,761	3,143	+13.8	+ 8.1	+11.5
Quebec	20	3,015	3,482	+15.5	+ 7.2	+ 7.6
Ontario	21	6,108	6,684	+ 9.4	- 5.5	+11.9
Prairies	12	6,291	7,004	+11.3	+ 0.8	+14.5
British Columbia	6	2,629	2,964	+12.7	+13.9	+ 8.2

Retail Sales

Chain Stores

Sales of 919 chain store units operated by 25 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 24 per cent higher in September, 1944, than sales of 931 units operated by the same 25 firms in September a year ago. Average sales per store were $16,797 in September, 1944, 26 per cent higher than the $13,354 average for the same month of 1943.

Sales increased by 35 per cent in Quebec, 24 per cent in Ontario, 16 per cent in the Prairie Provinces and 13 per cent in British Columbia.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for September, 1943 and 1944

	September, 1943		September, 1944		Per cent change in sales
	No. Stores	Sales	No. Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	931	12,433,021	919	15,436,206	+24.2
Quebec	174	2,502,776	171	3,378,955	+35.0
Ontario	515	6,732,044	511	8,377,355	+24.4
Prairie Provinces	148	1,946,288	144	2,259,316	+16.1
British Columbia	94	1,251,913	93	1,420,580	+13.5

Independent Stores

Sales of 957 grocery or combination grocery and meat stores recorded an increase of 10 per cent in dollar volume in September, 1944 over the value of business transacted in the same month a year ago. Gains of 16 per cent in the Maritime Provinces and 13 per cent in Manitoba were the highest recorded for any region. Gains elsewhere were fairly uniform and amounted to 11 per cent in Saskatchewan, 10 per cent in Quebec, 9 per cent in both Alberta and British Columbia and 8 per cent in Ontario.

Comparison of Sales Reported for September, 1943 and 1944

	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	957	762	+10.3
Maritimes	158	131	+15.5
Quebec	223	182	+ 9.9
Ontario	336	256	+ 8.2
Manitoba	70	62	+13.3
Saskatchewan	31	25	+10.8
Alberta	72	54	+ 9.4
British Columbia	67	52	+ 9.2

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, OCTOBER, 1944

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Wholesale Trade

Reports received from 77 of the larger wholesale grocery establishments in Canada revealed that October sales were 20 per cent higher than the volume of business transacted in October, 1943, but were 3 per cent below dollar sales realized in September of this year. The increase of 20 per cent over October, 1943 reflects a rapid turnover of merchandise in all regions of the country, sales advancing from 15 per cent in British Columbia to 23 per cent in Quebec. Increases of 5 and 9 per cent over the September level of trading recorded in the Maritime Provinces and Quebec, respectively, were offset by declines of 1 per cent in Ontario, 10 per cent in the Prairies, and 10 per cent in British Columbia, to register in total an overall decline of 3 per cent. Cumulative sales for the first ten months of this year increased 13 per cent over the same period of 1943.

Inventories reported on hand at the end of October, 1944, were valued 7 per cent higher than the stocks held at the close of October last year, and were 12 per cent greater than the stock holdings reported at the end of September, 1944. Inventories at the beginning of October are normally 17 per cent in excess of the volume of business transacted during that month. Stocks at the beginning of October this year were 3 per cent below the sales transacted during the month indicating that the inventory position at the beginning of October was considerably below the normal level for that period of the year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) October, 1943 $	Dollar Sales (add 000) October, 1944 $	Per cent change: October, 1944 over October, 1943	Per cent change: October, 1944 over September, 1944	Per cent change: Year-to-date, 1944 / Year-to-date, 1943
CANADA	77	18,711	22,422	+19.8	- 2.7	+12.6
Maritimes	15	2,361	2,801	+18.6	+ 4.8	+12.2
Quebec	21	3,126	3,852	+23.2	+ 9.9	+ 9.5
Ontario	22	5,757	6,723	+16.8	- 1.0	+12.5
Prairies	13	5,168	6,409	+24.0	-10.2	+15.3
British Columbia	6	2,299	2,637	+14.7	-10.3	+ 8.8

Retail Sales

Chain Stores

Sales of 907 chain store units operated by 26 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 7 per cent higher in October, 1944, than sales of 919 units operated by the same 26 firms in October a year ago. Average sales per store were $15,611 in October, 1944, 8 per cent higher than the $14,428 average for the same month of 1943.

Sales increased by 16 per cent in Quebec, 6 per cent in Ontario, 1 per cent in the Prairie Provinces and 2 per cent in British Columbia.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for October, 1943 and 1944

	October, 1943		October, 1944		Per cent change in sales
	No. Stores	Sales $	No. Stores	Sales $	
CANADA	919	13,259,742	907	14,158,854	+ 6.8
Quebec.....	174	2,706,947	171	3,143,684	+16.1
Ontario	512	7,403,419	509	7,828,150	+ 5.7
Prairie Provinces ..	143	1,921,558	139	1,941,293	+ 1.0
British Columbia ...	90	1,227,818	88	1,245,727	+ 1.5

Independent Stores

Sales in most regions of the country maintained or slightly exceeded the volume for October, 1943. Declines of 2 and 3 per cent in Quebec and Ontario, however, were sufficient to offset the increases occurring elsewhere. Independent food stores in British Columbia did 5 per cent more business in October this year than last. Gains of 2 per cent in the Maritime Provinces and in Manitoba were accompanied by a 1 per cent increase in Alberta while sales in Saskatchewan were unchanged from October a year ago.

Comparison of Sales Reported for October, 1943 and 1944

	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	966	455	- 0.9
Maritimes	163	89	+ 2.2
Quebec	219	87	- 1.9
Ontario	342	140	- 3.4
Manitoba	75	43	+ 1.6
Saskatchewan	30	18	- 0.1
Alberta	67	33	+ 1.2
British Columbia	70	45	+ 5.0

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, NOVEMBER, 1944

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Wholesale Trade

Wholesale grocery sales transacted by 78 of the larger wholesale grocery establishments were 18 per cent higher in November of this year than last, and remained on a par with the October, 1944, level of trading. The 18 per cent increase conforms closely with the 20 per cent gain registered in the October comparison, but is greater than the 12 per cent increase witnessed in September. All regions of the country shared in the increase in trading, gains ranging from 12 per cent in British Columbia to 23 per cent in Quebec. Aggregate sales for the January-November period of this year stand 13 per cent higher than for the same months of 1943.

Stocks in the hands of wholesale grocers at the end of November were valued 4 per cent greater than the inventories on hand at the end of November last year. Inventories at the beginning of November are normally 43 per cent in excess of the volume of business transacted during that month. Stocks at the beginning of November this year were 5 per cent in excess of the sales transacted during the month indicating that the inventory position at the beginning of November was considerably below the normal level for that period of the year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change		
		November, 1943	November, 1944	November, 1944 over November, 1943	October, 1944	Year-to-date, 1944 Year-to-date, 1943
		$	$			
CANADA	78	19,895	23,527	+18.3	+ 0.7	+13.3
Maritimes	16	2,728	3,125	+14.6	+ 0.7	+12.5
Quebec	22	3,425	4,196	+22.5	+ 0.8	+10.9
Ontario	22	5,968	7,216	+20.9	+ 3.7	+13.3
Prairies	12	5,175	6,074	+17.4	- 2.2	+15.5
British Columbia	6	2,599	2,916	+12.2	+ 4.1	+ 9.1

Retail Sales

Chain Stores

Sales of 912 chain store units operated by 24 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 16 per cent higher in November, 1944, than sales of 922 units operated by the same 24 firms in November a year ago. Average sales per store were $15,753 in November, 1944, 18 per cent higher than the $13,394 average for the same month of 1943.

Sales increased by 18 per cent in Quebec, 17 per cent in Ontario, 16 per cent in the Prairie Provinces and 11 per cent in British Columbia.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for November, 1943 and 1944

	November, 1943		November, 1944		Per cent change in sales
	No. Stores	Sales	No. Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	922	12,348,814	912	14,367,178	+16.3
Quebec.....	174	2,558,136	171	3,020,434	+18.1
Ontario	513	6,938,515	510	8,098,830	+16.7
Prairie Provinces	141	1,656,475	138	1,919,924	+15.9
British Columbia	94	1,195,688	93	1,327,990	+11.1

Independent Stores

All parts of the Dominion reported increased sales by grocery and combination stores in November, 1944 over the same month of 1943. In the Maritime Provinces, and in each of the Prairie Provinces, gains ranged from 7 to 9 per cent. Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia were closely grouped with gains of 4 or 5 per cent over November a year ago. These compare with an average gain of 6 per cent for the country as a whole.

Comparison of Sales Reported for November, 1943 and 1944

	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	951	631	+ 5.6
Maritimes	171	127	+ 8.8
Quebec	220	135	+ 4.6
Ontario	317	196	+ 3.8
Manitoba	73	56	+ 7.8
Saskatchewan	27	20	+ 7.1
Alberta	74	51	+ 7.3
British Columbia	69	46	+ 5.2

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, DECEMBER, 1944

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Wholesale Trade

December sales transacted by 74 of the larger grocery wholesale establishments in Canada increased 5 per cent over the volume of business reported in December, 1943, but were 12 per cent below the dollar business realized in November, 1944. Total sales for the year 1944 increased 13 per cent over the 1943 level of trading. Increases in the annual comparison were fairly uniform for all regions of the country, gains ranging from 10 per cent in the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia to 15 per cent in Ontario.

The December increase over December, 1943 was shared by all regions of the country except the Prairie Provinces where sales declined by 8 per cent. Increases on a regional basis are as follows: Maritime Provinces, 5 per cent; Quebec, 7 per cent; Ontario, 10 per cent; British Columbia, 18 per cent.

Inventories held at the end of December, 1944 were valued 2 per cent lower than the stocks on hand at the end of December, 1945, but exceeded by 4 per cent the value of inventories in the hands of wholesale grocers on November 30, 1944. Stocks at the beginning of December are normally 64 per cent in excess of the volume of business transacted in that month as reflected in the average experience over the years 1935 to 1942. Stocks at the beginning of December, 1944, were 15 per cent in excess of the volume of business transacted, indicating that the inventory position at the beginning of December, 1944 had dropped considerably below the normal position for that period of the year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) December, 1943 $	December, 1944 $	Per cent change December, 1944 over December, 1943	November, 1944	Year-to-date, 1944 Year-to-date, 1943
CANADA	74	18,876	19,785	+ 4.8	-12.1	+12.5
Maritimes	14	2,398	2,525	+ 5.3	-16.1	+11.9
Quebec	22	2,901	3,095	+ 6.7	-36.1	+10.6
Ontario	20	5,609	6,168	+10.0	- 6.7	+13.0
Prairies	12	5,429	4,996	- 8.0	-25.6	+10.2
British Columbia	6	2,539	3,001	+18.2	- 0.5	+ 9.9

Retail Sales

Chain Stores

Sales of 922 chain store units operated by 27 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 17 per cent higher in December, 1944, than sales of 938 units operated by the same 27 firms in December a year ago. Average sales per store were $18,853 in December, 1944, 19 per cent higher than the $15,872 average for the same month of 1943.

Sales increased by 23 per cent in Quebec, 15 per cent in Ontario, 17 per cent in the Prairie Provinces and 16 per cent in British Columbia.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for December, 1943 and 1944

	December, 1943 No. Stores	December, 1943 Sales $	December, 1944 No. Stores	December, 1944 Sales $	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	938	14,887,827	922	17,382,496	+16.8
Quebec	174	3,007,475	170	3,760,910	+22.6
Ontario	523	8,438,671	517	9,688,354	+14.8
Prairie Provinces	147	1,973,101	142	2,300,444	+16.6
British Columbia	94	1,408,580	93	1,632,788	+15.9

Independent Stores

Independent grocery and combination stores reported sales 6 per cent higher in December, 1944 compared with December, 1943. Increases in most section of the country approximated the average result. The only marked deviations occurred in British Columbia and Saskatchewan where sales were up 13 and 10 per cent respectively over December, 1943.

Comparison of Sales Reported for December, 1943 and 1944

	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	969	670	+ 5.8
Maritimes	167	124	+ 7.3
Quebec	210	139	+ 4.5
Ontario	336	228	+ 4.6
Manitoba	77	46	+ 5.6
Saskatchewan	34	27	+10.2
Alberta	76	50	+ 4.3
British Columbia	69	56	+12.8

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, JANUARY, 1945

Indexes reflecting current trends in food distribution in Canada have been published for some years, indexes of retail grocery and wholesale grocery and fruit and vegetables sales forming components of the two regular monthly bulletins on retail and wholesale trade issued by the Merchandising and Services Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This series brings together in one report the information on retail grocery and wholesale grocery and fruit and vegetables sales contained in the other bulletins thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution.

Wholesale Trade

January sales transacted by food wholesalers increased 22 per cent in the grocery trade and 8 per cent in the fruit and vegetables trade over January, 1944, according to statements received from 75 grocery wholesalers and 41 fruit and vegetable wholesale merchants. Grocery sales were 2 per cent greater than the December business but the January fruit and vegetable trading fell 20 per cent below the December level.

The 22 per cent and 8 per cent gains were shared by all regions of the country. Results for the grocery trade on a regional basis are as follows: Maritime Provinces, 17 per cent; Quebec, 20 per cent; Ontario, 28 per cent; Prairie Provinces, 17 per cent; British Columbia, 23 per cent. Fruit and vegetable sales increased 4 per cent in the Maritime Provinces and Quebec, 6 per cent in Ontario, and 13 per cent in the Western Provinces.

The percentage increases quoted above relate to the total business of firms classified either as grocery or as fruit and vegetable wholesalers. Firms dealing chiefly in grocery products and considered as wholesale grocers may carry some fruits and vegetables. Conversely, although to a smaller degree, fruit and vegetable wholesalers may carry some dry groceries. As just stated, the percentage changes quoted above relate to the business of each of the two trades in their entirety not to the sales of grocery products alone or to the sale of fruit and vegetables alone.

Inventories in the hands of wholesale grocers at the end of January this year were valued 2 per cent lower than the stocks held on January 31, 1944, and 5 per cent lower than the stocks reported on hand at the end of December, 1944. Stocks at the beginning of January are normally 63 per cent in excess of the volume of business transacted in that month as reflected in the average experience over the years 1935 to 1942. Stocks at the beginning of January, 1945, were 34 per cent in excess of the volume of business transacted, indicating that the inventory position

at the beginning of the year had dropped considerable below the normal position for that period of the year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change	
		January, 1944 $	January, 1945 $	January, 1945 over January, 1944	January, 1945 over December, 1944
CANADA	75	16,177	19,674	+21.6	+ 1.5
Maritimes	17	2,500	2,922	+16.9	+ 3.6
Quebec	20	2,327	2,790	+19.9	+ 1.6
Ontario	20	4,724	6,062	+28.3	+ 1.4
Prairies	12	4,403	5,166	+17.3	+ 9.8
British Columbia ...	6	2,223	2,734	+23.0	+ 0.5

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetables Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change	
		January, 1944 $	January, 1945 $	January, 1945 over January, 1944	January, 1945 over December, 1944
CANADA	41	4,842	5,222	+ 7.8	-20.3
Maritimes and Quebec	13	1,390	1,448	+ 4.2	-20.9
Ontario	15	1,751	1,853	+ 5.8	-19.4
Western Provinces ..	13	1,701	1,921	+12.9	-20.9

Retail Sales

Chain Stores

Sales of 906 chain store units operated by 28 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 13 per cent higher in January, 1945, than sales of 894 units operated by the same 28 firms in January a year ago. Average sales per store were $16,037 in January, 1945, 14 per cent higher than the $14,048 average for the same month of 1944.

Sales increased by 8 per cent in the Maritime Provinces, 17 per cent in Quebec, 11 per cent in Ontario, 13 per cent in the Prairie Provinces and 16 per cent in British Columbia.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for January, 1944 and 1945

	January, 1944		January, 1945		Per cent change in sales
	No. Stores	Sales	No. Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	906	12,727,457	894	14,336,841	+12.6
Maritimes	42	422,385	41	455,921	+ 7.9
Quebec	174	2,640,067	170	3,094,674	+17.2
Ontario	523	7,131,426	517	7,886,408	+10.6
Prairie Provinces	106	1,483,221	105	1,679,566	+13.2
British Columbia	61	1,050,358	61	1,220,272	+16.2

Independent Stores

The sample of independent food stores has recently been enlarged to include a representative number of meat stores. Figures for meat stores are combined with those for grocery stores and combination grocery and meat stores in the summary presented below.

Sales of 1,247 independent food stores averaged 5 per cent higher in January this year over last. There was an unusual degree of uniformity in the results for various parts of the country, increases ranging from 1 per cent in Alberta to 7 per cent in British Columbia.

Comparison of Sales Reported for January, 1944 and 1945

	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	1,247	796	+ 4.8
Maritimes	185	132	+ 5.5
Quebec	297	174	+ 3.6
Ontario	398	271	+ 5.8
Manitoba	90	56	+ 3.9
Saskatchewan	56	33	+ 2.7
Alberta	105	55	+ 1.4
British Columbia	116	75	+ 7.4

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, FEBRUARY, 1945

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Wholesale Trade

Food wholesalers reported a more active trading market in February of this year than last, as measured by dollar volume of business. Reports received from 77 of the larger wholesale grocery establishments recorded a gain of 5 per cent for that trade, while statements from fruit and vegetable wholesalers indicated an increase of 6 per cent.

The 5 per cent increase registered by the grocery trade was not shared by all the regions of the country. Gains of 8 per cent in the Maritime Provinces, 12 per cent in Ontario, and 5 per cent in British Columbia were offset by a decline of 4 per cent in Quebec, while sales in the Prairie Provinces remained on a par with the volume of business transacted in February, 1944. Grocery sales declined 6 per cent from the January level of trading, decreases in the economic divisions of the country ranging from 3 per cent in Quebec to 12 per cent in the Maritime Provinces.

The average gain of 6 per cent recorded by the fruit and vegetable trade reflected an increase in trading in all parts of the country. Sales were up 4 per cent in the Maritime Provinces and Quebec, 8 per cent in Ontario, and 4 per cent in the Western Provinces. Fruit and vegetable wholesalers reported a 2 per cent gain over January sales.

Stocks in the hands of wholesale grocers at the end of February were valued 1 per cent higher than on the same date of last year and increased 1 per cent over the valuation placed on inventories held at the end of January, 1945. Merchandise on hand at the beginning of February is normally 66 per cent in excess of the volume of business transacted in that month as reflected in the average experience over the years 1935 to 1942. Stocks at the beginning of February, 1945, were 30 per cent in excess of the volume of business transacted, indicating that the inventory position at the beginning of February was considerably below the normal position for that period of the year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change	
		February 1944	February 1945	February, 1945 over February, 1944	February, 1945 over January, 1945
		$	$		
CANADA	77	18,211	19,053	+ 4.6	- 5.7
Maritimes	16	2,332	2,509	+ 7.6	-11.7
Quebec	20	2,736	2,623	- 4.1	- 3.4
Ontario	21	5,573	6,235	+11.9	- 4.1
Prairies	14	5,118	5,114	- 0.1	- 4.3
British Columbia	6	2,452	2,572	+ 4.9	- 7.1

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetables Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change	
		February 1944	February 1945	February, 1945 over February, 1944	February, 1945 over January, 1945
		$	$		
CANADA	48	6,534	6,899	+ 5.6	+ 1.6
Maritimes and Quebec ..	17	1,529	1,582	+ 3.5	+22.3
Ontario	18	2,589	2,799	+ 8.1	- 0.5
Western Provinces	13	2,416	2,518	+ 4.2	- 2.5

Retail Sales

Chain Stores

Sales of 942 chain store units operated by 27 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 6 per cent higher in February, 1945, than sales of 956 units operated by the same 27 firms in February a year ago. Average sales per store were $15,284 in February, 1945, 8 per cent higher than the $14,185 average for the same month of 1944.

Sales increased by 5 per cent in the Maritime Provinces, 9 per cent in Quebec, 6 per cent in Ontario, 4 per cent in the Prairie Provinces and 4 per cent in British Columbia.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for February, 1944 and 1945

	February, 1944		February, 1945		Per cent change in sales
	No. Stores	Sales	No. Stores	Sales	
CANADA	956	13,558,548	942	14,397,939	+ 6.2
Maritimes	43	443,570	43	465,744	+ 5.0
Quebec	174	2,819,631	170	3,060,844	+ 8.6
Ontario	500	7,322,114	494	7,787,609	+ 6.4
Prairie Provinces	145	1,711,091	143	1,772,699	+ 3.6
British Columbia	94	1,262,142	92	1,311,043	+ 3.9

Independent Stores

Sales reported by 1,283 stores operating in the food retailing field were 3 per cent higher in February this year compared with last. The sample of stores comprising this survey included grocery stores, combination grocery and meat stores as well as meat markets.

Declines of 2 and 1 per cent respectively were reported by food stores located in Saskatchewan and Alberta. In the central portion of the country, gains which approximated the average result were recorded. The Maritime Provinces and British Columbia recorded the largest increases, with sales up 5 per cent in both cases over February of last year.

Comparison of Sales Reported for February, 1944 and 1945

	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	1,283	716	+ 2.6
Maritimes	194	127	+ 5.0
Quebec	289	147	+ 1.7
Ontario	405	235	+ 3.1
Manitoba	98	51	+ 2.0
Saskatchewan	60	33	- 2.1
Alberta	115	46	- 1.4
British Columbia	122	77	+ 4.8

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, MARCH, 1945

Indexes reflecting current trends in food distribution in Canada have been published for some years, indexes of retail grocery and wholesale grocery and fruit and vegetables sales forming components of the two regular monthly bulletins on retail and wholesale trade issued by the Merchandising and Services Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This series brings together in one report the information on retail grocery and wholesale grocery and fruit and vegetables sales contained in the other bulletins thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution.

Wholesale Trade

Wholesale food sales were 2 per cent greater in March this year than last. The 2 per cent increase reflects a gain of 8 per cent in wholesale fruit and vegetable sales, while the dollar volume of wholesale grocery trading remained unchanged from March, 1944. These results are based on data received from 74 of the larger wholesale grocery establishments in Canada and 47 fruit and vegetable wholesalers.

The 8 per cent increase recorded by the fruit and vegetable trade was shared by all regions of the country, sales advancing 10 per cent in the Maritime Provinces and Quebec, 8 per cent in Ontario, and 6 per cent in the Western Provinces. Fruit and vegetable trading in March was 23 per cent heavier than the volume of business transacted in February of this year, while sales for the first quarter of 1945 stand 8 per cent higher than for the corresponding period of 1944.

The trend of grocery trading varied greatly for the different provinces. British Columbia registered an increase of 7 per cent; trading in Ontario remained on a par with March, 1944 sales, while dollar business declined 1 per cent in the Maritime Provinces, 2 per cent in the Prairie Provinces and 4 per cent in Quebec. March sales were 10 per cent greater than the volume of business transacted in February while cumulative figures for the first three months of this year stand 8 per cent above the January-March period of 1944.

The value of wholesale grocery inventories on hand at the end of March this year remained unchanged from stocks held on March 31, 1944 and was slightly less than 1 per cent below the valuation placed on merchandise held at the end of February, 1945. Stocks on hand at the beginning of March are normally 49 per cent in excess of the volume of business transacted in that month as reflected in the average experience over the years 1935-1942. Inventories at the beginning of March this year were 17 per cent in excess of the volume of business transacted during the month, indicating that the inventory position at the beginning of March was considerably below the normal situation for that period of the year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) March, 1944 $	Dollar Sales (add 000) March, 1945 $	Per cent change March, 1945 over March, 1944	Per cent change March, 1945 over February, 1945	Year-to-date, 1945 / Year-to-date, 1944
CANADA	74	20,295	20,255	- 0.2	+ 9.8	+ 7.8
Maritimes	16	2,889	2,864	- 0.9	+16.1	+ 7.3
Quebec	19	2,539	2,443	- 3.8	+13.4	+ 2.6
Ontario	22	6,761	6,764	0	+ 5.5	+12.1
Prairies	11	5,336	5,230	- 2.0	+ 9.9	+ 6.8
British Columbia	6	2,770	2,954	+ 6.6	+13.2	+11.0

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetables Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) March, 1944 $	Dollar Sales (add 000) March, 1945 $	Per cent change March, 1945 over March, 1944	Per cent change March, 1945 over February, 1945	Year-to-date, 1945 / Year-to-date, 1944
CANADA	47	7,689	8,274	+ 7.6	+23.1	+ 7.7
Maritimes and Quebec	17	1,828	2,008	+ 9.8	+13.1	+ 6.3
Ontario	18	3,064	3,307	+ 7.9	+26.5	+ 8.6
Western Provinces	12	2,797	2,959	+ 5.8	+22.0	+ 7.6

Retail Sales

Chain Stores

Sales of 947 chain store units operated by 27 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 14 per cent higher in March, 1945, than sales of 965 units operated by the same 27 firms in March a year ago. Average sales per store were $18,165 in March, 1945, 16 per cent higher than the $15,601 average for the same month of 1944.

Sales increased by 12 per cent in the Maritime Provinces, 17 per cent in Quebec, 14 per cent in Ontario, Prairie Provinces and British Columbia.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for March, 1944 and 1945

	March, 1944		March, 1945		Per cent change in sales
	No. Stores	Sales $	No. Stores	Sales $	
CANADA	965	15,055,307	947	17,202,308	+14.3
Maritimes	39	471,132	39	528,302	+12.1
Quebec	174	3,140,816	169	3,672,536	+16.9
Ontario	513	8,155,187	505	9,259,501	+13.5
Prairie Provinces ...	145	1,896,731	142	2,159,497	+13.9
British Columbia	94	1,391,441	92	1,582,472	+13.7

Independent Stores

Sales reported by 1,213 stores operating in the food retailing field were 10 per cent higher in March this year compared with last. The sample of stores comprising this survey included grocery stores, combination grocery and meat stores as well as meat markets.

Increases were recorded in all regions of the country compared with the corresponding month last year. These gains may be attributed in part to the fact that there were five Saturdays in March this year and only four in March, 1944. Increases ranged from 13 per cent in the Maritime Provinces to 7 per cent in Alberta. Gains for other provinces were as follows; Saskatchewan and British Columbia, 11 per cent; Ontario and Manitoba, 10 per cent; and Quebec, 9 per cent.

Comparison of Sales Reported for March, 1944 and 1945

	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	1,213	935	+ 9.8
Maritimes	176	149	+13.0
Quebec	280	201	+ 8.5
Ontario	388	302	+ 9.6
Manitoba	95	76	+ 9.8
Saskatchewan	59	45	+10.8
Alberta	103	78	+ 7.4
British Columbia	112	84	+10.9

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, APRIL, 1945

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Wholesale Trade

April wholesale sales of food products exceeded by a considerable margin the volume of grocery and fruit and vegetable sales made in April, 1944. Statements received from 74 of the larger wholesale grocery houses and 46 fruit and vegetable wholesalers revealed increases of 10 and 16 per cent for the respective trades.

The 10 per cent gain reported by grocery wholesalers indicated an active trading market in all regions of the country. Increases over April, 1944 on a regional basis are as follows: Prairie Provinces, 7 per cent; Ontario, 9 per cent; Quebec, 11 per cent; Maritime Provinces and British Columbia, 13 per cent. April sales were valued 5 per cent lower than the sales made by these firms in March, declines ranging from 3 per cent in Ontario to 6 per cent in British Columbia although partially offset by a 5 per cent increase in Quebec. Cumulative figures for the first four months of this year advanced 8 per cent over the sales transacted in the January-April period of last year.

Fruit and vegetable wholesalers reported gains of 14 per cent in British Columbia, 16 per cent in Ontario and 18 per cent in the Maritimes and Quebec which resulted for Canada in a 16 per cent increase in sales for April of this year over last. Dollar sales were 6 per cent above the March, 1945 level of trading while fruit and vegetable sales made during the January-April period of this year exceeded by 10 per cent the volume of business transacted during the same period of 1944.

Wholesale grocers valued their inventories on hand at the end of April 1 per cent higher than on the same date of last year, but stocks declined 2 per cent from the valuation placed on such holdings at the end of March, 1945. Stocks at the beginning of April are normally 35 per cent in excess of the volume of business transacted in that month as reflected in the average experience over the years 1935-1942. Inventories at the beginning of April this year were 27 per cent in excess of the volume of business transacted during the month, indicating that the inventory position at the beginning of April was slightly below the normal situation for that period of the year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) April, 1944 $	Dollar Sales (add 000) April, 1945 $	Per cent change April, 1945 over April, 1944	Per cent change April, 1945 over March, 1945	Per cent change Year-to-date, 1945 over Year-to-date, 1944
CANADA	74	17,734	19,434	+ 9.6	- 4.9	+ 8.2
Maritimes	15	2,296	2,598	+13.2	- 3.4	+ 8.7
Quebec	19	2,496	2,761	+10.6	+ 4.8	+ 4.5
Ontario	22	5,743	6,259	+ 9.0	- 2.7	+11.3
Prairies	12	4,761	5,073	+ 6.6	- 5.4	+ 6.7
British Columbia	6	2,438	2,743	+12.5	- 5.8	+11.4

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) April, 1944 $	Dollar Sales (add 000) April, 1945 $	Per cent change April, 1945 over April, 1944	Per cent change April, 1945 over March, 1945	Per cent change Year-to-date, 1945 over Year-to-date, 1944
CANADA	46	7,420	8,622	+16.2	+ 5.5	+10.2
Maritimes and Quebec .	15	1,593	1,887	+18.4	- 0.9	+11.1
Ontario	19	3,060	3,569	+16.6	+ 3.4	+10.9
Western Provinces	12	2,767	3,166	+14.4	+ 6.6	+ 9.5

Retail Sales

Chain Stores

Sales in April, 1945 of 935 chain store units operated by 26 chain companies in the food retailing field were on a par with the sales of 954 units operated by the same 26 firms in April a year ago. Average sales per store were $15,965 in April, 1945, 2 per cent higher than the $15,638 average for the same month of 1944.

The results for various sections of the country were quite uniform. Moderate increases occurred in Quebec, the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia, while Ontario and the Maritime Provinces recorded declines of 1 and 3 per cent respectively.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for April, 1944 and 1945

	April, 1944		April, 1945		Per cent change in sales
	No. Stores	Sales	No. Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	954	14,918,615	935	14,926,915	+ 0.1
Maritimes	39	476,387	39	461,791	- 3.1
Quebec	174	3,065,094	168	3,099,864	+ 1.1
Ontario	502	8,058,703	493	7,991,502	- 0.8
Prairie Provinces ..	145	1,928,884	143	1,958,973	+ 1.6
British Columbia ...	94	1,389,547	92	1,414,785	+ 1.8

Independent Stores

Sales reported by 1,213 stores operating in the food retailing field were 1 per cent higher in April this year than last. The sample of stores comprising this survey included grocery stores, combination grocery and meat stores as well as meat markets.

Increases of 5 per cent in Saskatchewan and British Columbia were followed by gains of 3 per cent in Manitoba and 2 per cent in the Maritime Provinces. Ontario sales were unchanged from April a year ago, while declines in Quebec and Alberta amounted to 2 per cent in each case.

Comparison of Sales Reported for April, 1944 and 1945

	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	1,213	636	+ 0.5
Maritimes	174	100	+ 1.9
Quebec	279	128	- 1.5
Ontario	399	195	(a)
Manitoba	88	53	+ 2.6
Saskatchewan	55	37	+ 5.1
Alberta	105	46	- 2.1
British Columbia ...	113	77	+ 4.6

(a) Less than 0.1 per cent.

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Wholesale Trade

Wholesale food sales transacted in May of this year were 7 per cent greater than the volume of business done in May, 1944, according to statements received from 76 of the larger wholesale grocery houses and 47 wholesale fruit and vegetable establishments. The 7 per cent gain reflects an increase of 8 per cent in grocery sales while the fruit and vegetable trade recorded a gain of 4 per cent.

Each of the economic divisions reported a gain in wholesale grocery trading, but the increases varied greatly. Ontario sales advanced 14 per cent, the Maritime Provinces recorded a 9 per cent gain, increases of 6 per cent were reported by wholesalers in the Prairie Provinces and Quebec, and sales in British Columbia were 1 per cent higher in May of this year than last. May sales averaged 15 per cent higher than the volume of business transacted in April, 1945, and cumulative figures for the first five months of the current year are 8 per cent greater than for the same period of 1944.

Fruit and vegetable sales declined 3 per cent in the Maritime Provinces and Quebec, but increases of 7 and 4 per cent were recorded by Ontario and the Western Provinces respectively. May fruit and vegetable sales were 10 per cent greater than the April volume of business while aggregate sales for the January-May period of 1945 stand 9 per cent above the sales transacted in the same five months of last year.

Inventories in the hands of wholesale grocers at the end of May this year were valued 3 per cent lower than on the same date of last year and declined 7 per cent from the valuation placed on stock holdings at the end of April, 1945. Stocks at the beginning of May are normally 26 per cent in excess of the volume of business transacted in that month as reflected in the average experience over the years 1935-1942. Inventories at the beginning of May this year were 8 per cent in excess of the volume of business transacted during the month, indicating that the inventory position at the beginning of May was considerably below the normal situation for that period of the year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) May, 1944	Dollar Sales (add 000) May, 1945	Per cent change May, 1945 over May, 1944	Per cent change May, 1945 over April, 1945	Per cent change Year-to-date, 1945 Year-to-date, 1944
		$	$			
CANADA	76	20,845	22,539	+ 8.1	+15.0	+ 8.2
Maritimes	16	2,835	3,076	+ 8.5	+12.5	+ 8.7
Quebec	20	3,176	3,366	+ 6.0	+10.7	+ 4.9
Ontario	22	6,309	7,189	+14.0	+15.5	+11.9
Prairies	12	5,530	5,885	+ 6.4	+17.3	+ 6.8
British Columbia	6	2,995	3,023	+ 0.9	+ 6.0	+ 9.0

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) May, 1944	Dollar Sales (add 000) May, 1945	Per cent change May, 1945 over May, 1944	Per cent change May, 1945 over April, 1945	Per cent change Year-to-date, 1945 Year-to-date, 1944
		$	$			
CANADA	47	9,248	9,584	+ 3.6	+ 9.5	+ 8.6
Maritimes and Quebec	14	2,104	2,051	- 2.5	+12.2	+ 6.8
Ontario	19	3,770	4,016	+ 6.5	+ 8.1	+ 9.8
Western Provinces	14	3,374	3,517	+ 4.2	+ 8.7	+ 9.0

Retail Sales

Chain Stores

Sales in May, 1945 of 890 chain store units operated by 25 chain companies in the food retailing field were 8 per cent higher than the sales of 911 units operated by the same 25 firms in May a year ago. Average sales per store were $17,867 in May, 1945, 11 per cent higher than the $16,122 average for the same month of 1944.

A 13 per cent increase in the Prairie Provinces featured the regional results. Sales of chain food stores located in Quebec Province were 10 per cent higher in May of this year compared with last, exceeding the gain recorded for the Dominion as a whole. Increases in other regions were slightly lower than the average increase for Canada.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for May, 1944 and 1945

	May, 1944		May, 1945		Per cent change in sales
	No. Stores	Sales	No. Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	911	14,687,428	890	15,901,942	+ 8.3
Maritimes	39	476,130	38	506,619	+ 6.4
Quebec	172	3,028,262	165	3,329,026	+ 9.9
Ontario	516	8,126,793	506	8,708,932	+ 7.2
Prairie Provinces	99	1,717,859	97	1,934,832	+12.6
British Columbia	85	1,338,384	84	1,422,533	+ 6.3

Independent Stores

Sales reported by 1,230 stores operating in the food retailing field were 7 per cent higher in May this year than last. The sample of stores comprising this survey included grocery stores, combination grocery and meat stores as well as meat markets.

The increase of 13 per cent in Saskatchewan stood out among the results for various sections of the country. Increases in other provinces were within narrow limits of the average gain for Canada between May of the two years, with the exception of the Maritime Provinces where sales increased by only 3 per cent over May, 1944.

Comparison of Sales Reported for May, 1944 and 1945

	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	1,230	859	+ 7.3
Maritimes	176	117	+ 2.9
Quebec	279	182	+ 6.9
Ontario	406	289	+ 9.1
Manitoba	91	63	+ 7.2
Saskatchewan	58	47	+12.8
Alberta	108	76	+ 6.2
British Columbia	112	85	+ 8.1

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, JULY, 1945

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Wholesale Trade

July wholesale grocery sales were 11 per cent higher than sales transacted in July, 1944, and remained on a par with the May and June dollar volume of business. British Columbia reported an increase of 19 per cent while sales in the Maritime Provinces gained 15 per cent. Quebec and Ontario each recorded a 10 per cent increase and sales in the Prairie Provinces were up 8 per cent. Cumulative figures for the year to date were 8 per cent higher than for the same period of 1944.

Fruit and vegetable wholesalers reported an increase of 24 per cent over July, 1944, sales being on a par with the June high level of trading. The eastern region, including the Maritime Provinces and Quebec, reported an increase of 29 per cent, Ontario sales advanced 28 per cent, and the western provinces did 18 per cent more business.

Wholesale grocery stocks were valued 8 per cent lower at the end of July this year than last, and declined 10 per cent from the inventories reported on hand on June 30, 1945. Stocks on hand at the beginning of July are normally 7 per cent in excess of that month's requirements. Stocks on hand at the beginning of July this year were 3 per cent below the volume of July business indicating that the inventory position at the beginning of July was below the normal situation for that period of the year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) July, 1944	Dollar Sales (add 000) July, 1945	Per cent change July, 1945 over July, 1944	Per cent change July, 1945 over June, 1945	Per cent change Year-to-date, 1945 / Year-to-date, 1944
		$	$			
CANADA	71	18,656	20,766	+11.3	- 0.4	+ 8.3
Maritimes	15	2,469	2,827	+14.5	- 5.7	+10.3
Quebec	18	2,799	3,085	+10.2	- 2.1	+ 6.1
Ontario	20	5,535	6,094	+10.1	- 0.6	+10.2
Prairies	12	5,465	5,910	+ 8.1	+ 6.8	+ 6.1
British Columbia	6	2,388	2,850	+19.3	- 7.9	+11.1

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) July, 1944	Dollar Sales (add 000) July, 1945	Per cent change July, 1945 over July, 1944	Per cent change July, 1945 over June, 1945	Per cent change Year-to-date, 1945 / Year-to-date, 1944
		$	$			
CANADA	40	8,921	11,032	+23.7	+ 0.7	+12.9
Maritimes and Quebec .	12	1,674	2,158	+28.9	-19.7	+13.1
Ontario	19	3,454	4,406	+27.6	+ 4.0	+14.2
Western Provinces	9	3,793	4,468	+17.8	+11.9	+11.4

Retail Sales

Chain Stores

July, 1945 sales of 922 chain store units operated by 26 chain companies in the food retailing field were 10 per cent higher than sales of 954 stores operated by the same 26 firms in July a year ago. Average sales per store in July of this year were $16,677, 14 per cent above the $14,612 average for the same month of 1944.

Results on a regional basis reveal consistency in the trend throughout the Dominion during the month under review. Widest variation from the average was a 13 per cent gain in British Columbia.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for July, 1944 and 1945

	July, 1944		July, 1945		Per cent change in sales
	No. Stores	Sales	No. Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	954	13,939,482	922	15,375,960	+10.3
Maritimes	45	524,303	42	584,189	+11.4
Quebec	171	2,787,469	165	3,102,382	+11.3
Ontario	507	7,399,546	490	8,102,302	+ 9.5
Prairie Provinces ...	137	1,913,683	133	2,101,538	+ 9.8
British Columbia	94	1,314,481	92	1,485,549	+13.0

Independent Stores

Independent food stores, on the basis of reports received from 1,214 retail merchants, did 8 per cent more business in July this year compared with last. Grocery stores, combination grocery and meat stores and meat markets are represented in the sample of reporting companies.

Saskatchewan and British Columbia stores reported sales higher by 12 and 11 per cent respectively over July a year ago. Other sections of the country reported sales increases about on a par with the average gain for the country as a whole.

Comparison of Sales Reported for July, 1944 and 1945

	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	1,214	836	+ 7.9
Maritimes	174	112	+ 5.5
Quebec	280	185	+ 6.8
Ontario	400	277	+ 9.2
Manitoba	90	71	+ 6.6
Saskatchewan	56	44	+11.5
Alberta	106	69	+ 6.0
British Columbia	108	78	+11.0

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, AUGUST, 1945

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Wholesale Trade

Dollar sales realized by wholesale grocers in August were 4 per cent greater than the volume of business transacted in August, 1944, and 3 per cent greater than the July, 1945 level. These figures are based on returns from 72 of the larger wholesale grocery establishments operating in Canada. Substantial gains of 12 and 14 per cent in the Maritime Provinces and British Columbia respectively, were offset by a minor increase of 3 per cent in Quebec, a decline of 1 per cent in the Prairie Provinces, while Ontario reported dollar sales unchanged from August of last year. Aggregate sales for the year to date stand 8 per cent above the corresponding period of 1944.

Fruit and vegetable sales increased 16 per cent over August, 1944 but declined 3 per cent from the July volume of trading. Ontario came first in point of view of increased trading, recording a gain of 21 per cent. Sales transacted in the western provinces were up 13 per cent while the Maritime Provinces reported a minor gain of 2 per cent. Cumulative figures for the January-August period are 13 per cent higher than for the same eight months of 1944.

Inventories in the hands of wholesale grocers at the end of August were valued 9 per cent lower this year than last, and 2 per cent below the valuation placed on stocks at the end of July. Stocks on hand at the beginning of August are normally 11 per cent in excess of that month's requirements. Stocks on hand at the beginning of August this year were 13 per cent below the volume of August sales, indicating that the inventory position at the beginning of August was considerably below the normal situation for that period of the year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change		Year-to-date, 1945 / Year-to-date, 1944
		August 1944	August 1945	August, 1945 over August, 1944	August, 1945 over July, 1945	
		$	$			
CANADA	72	21,215	21,967	+ 3.5	+ 2.6	+ 7.5
Maritimes	16	2,796	3,143	+12.4	+ 3.0	+10.2
Quebec	18	2,886	2,980	+ 3.2	+ 3.4	+ 5.8
Ontario	21	6,921	6,919	-	+ 2.6	+ 8.6
Prairies	11	6,039	6,005	- 0.6	+ 1.2	+ 5.1
British Columbia ...	6	2,573	2,920	+13.5	+ 1.3	+11.4

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change		Year-to-date, 1945 / Year-to-date, 1944
		August 1944	August 1945	August, 1945 over August, 1944	August, 1945 over July, 1945	
		$	$			
CANADA	46	9,556	11,043	+15.6	- 2.9	+13.2
Maritimes and Quebec	16	1,956	2,190	+ 2.0	-29.5	+13.0
Ontario	18	3,223	3,895	+20.9	- 5.5	+15.1
Western Provinces ..	12	4,377	4,958	+13.3	+16.2	+11.8

Retail Sales

Chain Stores

August, 1945 sales of 919 chain store units operated by 25 chain companies in the food retailing field were 11 per cent higher than sales of 948 stores operated by the same 25 firms in August a year ago. Average sales per store in August of this year were $16,966, 14 per cent above the $14,819 average for the same month of 1944.

Increases of 14 per cent occurred in Quebec, the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia. The increase of 11 per cent in the Maritime Provinces was on a par with the average gain for Canada while Ontario, with a gain of 9 per cent, was the only region showing an increase lower than that for Canada as a whole.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for August, 1944 and 1945

	August, 1944		August, 1945		Per cent change in sales
	No. Stores	Sales	No. Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	948	14,048,716	919	15,592,201	+11.0
Maritimes	39	480,255	38	532,794	+10.9
Quebec	171	2,780,137	165	3,176,835	+14.3
Ontario	500	7,390,592	483	8,017,804	+ 8.5
Prairie Provinces ...	144	2,055,836	141	2,334,490	+13.6
British Columbia	94	1,341,896	92	1,530,278	+14.0

Independent Stores

Independent food stores, on the basis of reports received from 1,213 retail merchants, did 10 per cent more business in August this year compared with last. Grocery stores, combination grocery and meat stores and meat markets are represented in the sample of reporting companies.

An outstanding gain of 18 per cent took place in Saskatchewan, while the average increase for Canada was slightly exceeded in Ontario and British Columbia. Increases in other sections of the country were within the range of 7 to 10 per cent.

Comparison of Sales Reported for August, 1944 and 1945

	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	1,213	903	+10.4
Maritimes	175	120	+ 7.9
Quebec	282	219	+ 9.9
Ontario	387	288	+11.6
Manitoba	89	70	+ 8.3
Saskatchewan	57	49	+18.1
Alberta	105	68	+ 6.8
British Columbia	118	89	+11.9

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, SEPTEMBER, 1945

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Wholesale Trade

September wholesale grocery sales were 2 per cent lower than the volume of business realized in September, 1944 and 4 per cent below August, 1945 sales. These results are based on data received from 77 of the larger wholesale grocery establishments operating in Canada. Declines of 9 per cent in the Maritime Provinces and 5 per cent in both Quebec and the Prairie Provinces were partially offset by gains of 3 per cent in Ontario and 4 per cent in British Columbia. Total sales transacted in the January-September period of this year are 6 per cent greater than the business realized in the same period of 1944.

Fruit and vegetable sales increased 20 per cent in September this year over last, and 7 per cent over August transactions. The 20 per cent gain reflects an active trading market in all regions of the country, sales increasing 19 per cent in the Maritime Provinces and Quebec, 26 per cent in Ontario and 16 per cent in the Western Provinces. Aggregate sales for the year to date stand 14 per cent higher than sales transacted in the same 9 months of 1944.

Wholesale grocery stocks at the end of September were valued 6 per cent lower this year than last, but increased 9 per cent over the inventories held at the end of August. Stocks on hand at the beginning of September are normally 10 per cent in excess of the business transacted in that month. Stocks on hand at the beginning of September this year were 13 per cent below the volume of September sales, indicating that the inventory position at the beginning of September was considerably below the normal situation for that period of the year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) September 1944	Dollar Sales (add 000) September 1945	Per cent change: September, 1945 over September, 1944	Per cent change: September, 1945 over August, 1945	Per cent change: Year-to-date, 1945 / Year-to-date, 1944
		$	$			
CANADA	77	21,629	21,213	- 1.9	- 3.7	+ 6.4
Maritimes	17	3,140	2,869	- 8.6	-11.7	+ 7.9
Quebec	20	3,100	2,934	- 5.4	- 2.1	+ 4.3
Ontario	22	6,291	6,503	+ 3.4	- 2.1	+ 7.9
Prairies	12	6,329	6,017	- 4.9	- 3.8	+ 3.8
British Columbia	6	2,769	2,890	+ 4.4	+ 4.7	+10.5

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) September 1944	Dollar Sales (add 000) September 1945	Per cent change: September, 1945 over September, 1944	Per cent change: September, 1945 over August, 1945	Per cent change: Year-to-date, 1945 / Year-to-date, 1944
		$	$			
CANADA	49	9,114	10,892	+19.5	+ 7.0	+14.0
Maritimes and Quebec	18	1,960	2,336	+19.2	+56.5	+13.8
Ontario	18	2,777	3,496	+25.9	- 3.2	+16.2
Western Provinces	13	4,377	5,060	+15.6	- 3.0	+12.3

Retail Sales

Chain Stores

September, 1945 sales of 953 chain store units operated by 26 chain companies in the food retailing field were 4 per cent lower than sales of 925 stores operated by the same 26 firms in September a year ago. Average sales per store in September of this year were $16,593, practically unchanged from the $16,696 average for the same month of 1944.

Western provinces recorded gains of 6 per cent in British Columbia and 2 per cent in the Prairie Provinces. Declines in eastern sections of the country were fairly uniform at 5 or 6 per cent.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for September, 1944 and 1945

	September, 1944		September, 1945		Per cent change in sales
	No. Stores	Sales	No. Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	953	15,911,520	925	15,348,911	- 3.5
Maritimes	39	517,396	38	492,740	- 4.8
Quebec	171	3,378,955	165	3,167,493	- 6.3
Ontario	516	8,404,351	497	7,958,619	- 5.3
Prairie Provinces ..	134	2,190,238	133	2,226,244	+ 1.6
British Columbia ...	93	1,420,580	92	1,503,815	+ 5.9

Independent Stores

In contrast to the substantial increases which characterized corresponding month comparisons between this year and last for earlier months, sales of independent food outlets were unchanged in September, 1945 compared with the corresponding month a year ago. Reason for this was twofold. In the first instance there was one more business day in September of last year than this. Secondly the introduction of meat rationing on September 3rd tended to reduce the volume of business transacted by meat markets and combination stores.

Comparison of Sales Reported for September, 1944 and 1945

	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	1,231	610	- 0.1
Maritimes	181	84	- 3.4
Quebec	289	138	- 0.6
Ontario	403	198	+ 0.7
Manitoba	84	41	- 1.1
Saskatchewan	60	26	+ 1.1
Alberta	105	62	+ 2.8
British Columbia ...	109	61	+ 2.0

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, OCTOBER, 1945

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Wholesale Trade

Wholesale grocery sales increased 11 per cent in October of this year over 1944, and advanced 14 per cent over the dollar volume of sales transacted in September, 1945, according to returns received from 77 of the larger wholesale grocery establishments in Canada. A substantial gain of 22 per cent was recorded in British Columbia and Ontario sales were up 14 per cent. Smaller gains in the other regions were 10 per cent in the Prairie Provinces, 6 per cent in the Maritime Provinces and 2 per cent in Quebec. Aggregate figures for the year to date were 7 per cent greater than sales transacted in the same period of 1944.

October wholesale fruit and vegetable sales gained 31 per cent over sales of October, 1944 but declined 3 per cent from the September volume of trading. The 31 per cent increase reflects major gains in all regions of the country. Sales advanced 37 per cent in the Maritime Provinces and Quebec, 32 per cent in Ontario, and 27 per cent in the Western Provinces. Total sales for the year stand 16 per cent above the January - October period of 1944.

A decline of 11 per cent in wholesale grocery inventories was recorded between October 31, of this year and last, but stocks increased 8 per cent over the inventories reported on hand at the end of September. Stocks on hand at the beginning of October are normally 17 per cent in excess of the business transacted in that month. Stocks on hand at the beginning of October this year were 19 per cent below the volume of October sales, indicating that the inventory position at the beginning of October was considerably below the normal situation for that period of the year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) October 1944 $	Dollar Sales (add 000) October 1945 $	Per cent change October, 1945 over October, 1944	Per cent change October, 1945 over September, 1945	Per cent change Year-to-date, 1945 over Year-to-date, 1944
CANADA	77	21,728	24,034	+10.6	+13.8	+ 6.5
Maritimes	17	3,123	3,321	+ 6.3	+23.3	+ 7.6
Quebec	21	3,918	4,004	+ 2.2	+12.1	+ 4.8
Ontario	21	6,529	7,442	+14.0	+19.6	+ 7.6
Prairies	12	5,652	6,203	+ 9.8	+ 1.5	+ 4.7
British Columbia ...	6	2,506	3,064	+22.3	+ 5.1	+11.7

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) October 1944 $	Dollar Sales (add 000) October 1945 $	Per cent change October, 1945 over October, 1944	Per cent change October, 1945 over September, 1945	Per cent change Year-to-date, 1945 over Year-to-date, 1944
CANADA	44	8,260	10,831	+31.1	- 2.9	+15.7
Maritimes and Quebec	15	1,794	2,453	+36.7	-12.8	+15.8
Ontario	17	3,047	4,036	+32.4	+ 5.9	+17.8
Western Provinces ..	12	3,419	4,342	+27.0	- 6.5	+13.9

Retail Sales
Chain Stores

October, 1945 sales of 912 chain store units operated by 24 chain companies in the food retailing field were 9 per cent higher than sales of 939 stores operated by the same 24 firms in October a year ago. Average sales per store in October of this year were $17,552, 13 per cent higher than the $15,576 average for the same month of 1944.

Increases for the various regions ranged from 7 per cent in Ontario to 12 per cent in British Columbia.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for October, 1944 and 1945

	October, 1944		October, 1945		Per cent change in sales
	No. Stores	Sales	No. Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	939	14,626,162	912	15,855,976	+ 8.4
Maritimes	41	479,412	40	516,766	+ 7.8
Quebec	171	3,143,684	165	3,477,282	+10.6
Ontario	501	7,794,508	483	8,310,227	+ 6.6
Prairie Provinces ..	133	1,904,962	132	2,089,902	+ 9.7
British Columbia ...	93	1,303,596	92	1,461,799	+12.1

Independent Stores

Sales of independent food retailers averaged 8 per cent higher in October of this year than last. With the exception of the Maritime Provinces with a gain of 4 per cent, percentage increases over October a year ago were fairly uniform for all provinces, ranging from 7 per cent in Quebec and Alberta to 12 per cent in Saskatchewan.

Comparison of Sales Reported for October, 1944 and 1945

	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	1,248	875	+ 7.9
Maritimes	186	114	+ 3.7
Quebec	287	196	+ 7.4
Ontario	416	306	+ 9.9
Manitoba	90	71	+ 8.5
Saskatchewan	55	45	+11.9
Alberta	107	65	+ 6.8
British Columbia ...	107	78	+ 8.2

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, NOVEMBER, 1945

Indexes reflecting current trends in food distribution in Canada have been published for some years, indexes of retail grocery and wholesale grocery and fruits and vegetables sales forming components of the two regular monthly bulletins on retail and wholesale trade issued by the Merchandising and Services Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This series brings together in one report the information on retail grocery and wholesale grocery and fruit and vegetable sales contained in the other bulletins thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution.

Wholesale Trade

November wholesale grocery sales were 6 per cent greater in 1945 than in 1944, but fell 4 per cent below the volume of business transacted in October, 1945. These data are based on returns from 73 of the larger wholesale grocery establishments in Canada. The 6 per cent gain was not shared by all regions of the country. Grocery sales in Quebec declined 5 per cent from the November, 1944 level while the Maritime Provinces registered a minor increase of 1 per cent. Ontario and the Prairie Provinces each reported a gain of 8 per cent and British Columbia sales were up 15 per cent. Cumulative sales transacted in the January-November period of 1945 stand 6 per cent above the dollar business reported in the same months of 1944.

The dollar value of fruit and vegetable sales advanced 31 per cent between November, 1945 and 1944, but November sales were valued 6 per cent lower than the October volume of trading. Sales were up 28 per cent in the Maritime Provinces and Quebec, 47 per cent in Ontario, and 17 per cent in British Columbia. Fruit and vegetable sales were 17 per cent higher in the first eleven months of 1945 than in 1944.

Wholesale grocery stocks were valued 11 per cent lower at the end of November, 1945 than on the same date of the previous year, but inventories increased 5 per cent over the stocks on hand at the end of October, 1945. Inventories at the beginning of November are normally 43 per cent in excess of the business transacted during that month. Stocks on hand at the beginning of November, 1945, were 14 per cent below the volume of November sales, indicating that the inventory position at the beginning of November was considerably below the normal situation for that period of the year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) November, 1944 $	Dollar Sales (add 000) November, 1945 $	Per cent change November, 1945 over November, 1944	Per cent change November, 1945 over October, 1945	Year-to-date, 1945 over Year-to-date, 1944
CANADA	73	21,559	22,767	+ 5.6	- 3.7	+ 6.4
Maritimes	16	3,010	3,038	+ 0.9	- 4.2	+ 6.9
Quebec	21	3,730	3,561	- 4.5	- 6.3	+ 3.7
Ontario	20	6,661	7,185	+ 7.9	- 1.3	+ 7.6
Prairies	11	5,468	5,896	+ 7.8	- 3.9	+ 5.0
British Columbia ...	5	2,690	3,087	+14.8	- 2.3	+12.0

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) November, 1944 $	Dollar Sales (add 000) November, 1945 $	Per cent change November, 1945 over November, 1944	Per cent change November, 1945 over October, 1945	Year-to-date, 1945 over Year-to-date, 1944
CANADA	45	7,384	9,660	+30.8	- 6.1	+17.0
Maritimes and Quebec	14	1,599	2,048	+28.1	- 0.6	+16.9
Ontario	18	2,797	4,122	+47.4	+ 4.7	+20.3
Western Provinces ..	13	2,988	3,490	+16.8	-12.7	+14.2

Retail Sales

Chain Stores

November, 1945 sales of 930 chain store units operated by 28 chain companies in the food retailing field were 11 per cent higher than sales of 960 stores operated by the same 28 firms in November, 1944. Average sales per store in November, 1945 were $17,744, 14 per cent above the $15,513 average for the same month of the previous year.

Quebec stores, with a gain of 15 per cent, showed the greatest expansion in business between November of the two years. A 9 per cent increase in Ontario was the lowest among those recorded for various regions. Results for other regions conformed closely with the average increase.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for November, 1944 and 1945

	November, 1944		November, 1945		% Change In Sales November, 1945 / November, 1944
	No. of Stores	Sales $	No. of Stores	Sales $	
CANADA	960	14,892,152	930	16,501,463	+10.8
Maritimes	41	478,302	40	526,117	+10.0
Quebec	171	3,020,434	165	3,457,640	+14.5
Ontario	516	8,131,626	497	8,842,645	+ 8.7
Prairie Provinces	139	1,933,800	136	2,175,865	+12.5
British Columbia.	93	1,327,990	92	1,499,196	+12.9

Independent Stores

The November increase in sales of independent food retailers was approximately the same as that for chain stores, amounting to 10 per cent. Saskatchewan sales were up 15 per cent, although gains in Manitoba and Alberta were much smaller at 8 and 9 per cent respectively. Independent stores in Ontario enjoyed a greater margin of increase over November, 1944 than did chain stores. The 12 per cent increase recorded for that province was the second largest among the regional results. The Maritime Provinces continued to record smaller increases than those in other areas.

Comparison of Sales Reported for November, 1944 and 1945

	No. of Stores Reporting	No. Reporting An Increase	% Change In Sales November, 1945 / November, 1944
CANADA	1,243	932	+10.2
Maritimes	174	106	+ 6.5
Quebec	291	227	+ 9.8
Ontario	400	313	+12.1
Manitoba	93	70	+ 7.8
Saskatchewan	60	50	+14.5
Alberta	108	76	+ 9.4
British Columbia ...	117	90	+10.5

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, DECEMBER, 1945

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Wholesale Trade

Wholesale grocery sales increased 5 per cent in December, 1945 over 1944, but declined 13 per cent from the November, 1945 volume of trading, according to statements received from 77 of the larger wholesale grocery houses operating in Canada. Results on a regional basis were not uniform. Gains over December, 1944 were as follows: Maritime Provinces, 6 per cent; Quebec, 1 per cent; Ontario, 8 per cent; Prairie Provinces, 2 per cent; and British Columbia, 6 per cent. The dollar grocery business transacted in 1945 exceeded 1944 sales by 6 per cent.

December wholesale fruit and vegetable sales were up 27 per cent over December, 1944 and 6 per cent over November, 1945. Results are based on returns received from 43 wholesale fruit and vegetable wholesalers in Canada. The 27 per cent gain reflects an active market in all regions of the country, sales increasing 20 per cent in the Maritime Provinces and Quebec, 35 per cent in Ontario, and 24 per cent in the Western Provinces. Total sales transacted in 1945 stand 18 per cent above the 1944 volume of wholesale fruit and vegetable sales.

Grocery stocks in the hands of wholesalers at the end of 1945 were valued 8 per cent below the inventories held on December 31, 1944 but increased 8 per cent over the stocks reported on hand at the end of November, 1945. Inventories at the beginning of December are normally 64 per cent in excess of the business transacted during that month. Stocks on hand at the beginning of December, 1945, were 1 per cent below the volume of December sales, indicating that the inventory position at the beginning of December was decidedly below the normal situation for that period of the year.

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Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) December, 1944 $	Dollar Sales (add 000) December, 1945 $	Per cent change December, 1945 over December, 1944	Per cent change December, 1945 over November, 1945	Per cent change Year-to-date, 1945 over Year-to-date, 1944
CANADA	77	20,678	21,696	+ 4.9	-12.7	+ 6.3
Maritimes	16	2,710	2,883	+ 6.4	-10.9	+ 6.8
Quebec	20	2,981	3,004	+ 0.8	-18.1	+ 3.6
Ontario	22	6,520	7,064	+ 8.4	- 7.6	+ 7.7
Prairies	13	5,652	5,749	+ 1.7	-21.5	+ 4.8
British Columbia	6	2,815	2,996	+ 6.4	- 6.8	+11.4

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) December, 1944 $	Dollar Sales (add 000) December, 1945 $	Per cent change December, 1945 over December, 1944	Per cent change December, 1945 over November, 1945	Per cent change Year-to-date, 1945 over Year-to-date, 1944
CANADA	43	7,875	10,004	+27.0	+ 6.3	+17.9
Maritimes and Quebec.	13	1,911	2,288	+19.7	+ 3.3	+17.1
Ontario	17	2,771	3,749	+35.3	+ 8.0	+21.6
Western Provinces ...	13	3,193	3,967	+24.2	+ 8.1	+15.0

Retail Sales
Chain Stores

December, 1945 sales of 917 chain store units operated by 27 chain companies in the food retailing field were 3 per cent higher than sales of 944 stores operated by the same 27 firms in December, 1944. Average sales per store in December, 1945 were $19,949, 6 per cent above the $18,900 average for the same month of the previous year.

Increases, closely resembling the average gain occurred in most sections of the country, with the exception of the Prairie Provinces where sales were 1 per cent lower than in December, 1944.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for December, 1944 and 1945

	December, 1944		December, 1945		% Change In Sales December, 1945 / December, 1944
	No. of Stores	Sales $	No. of Stores	Sales $	
CANADA	944	17,841,886	917	18,292,880	+ 2.5
Maritimes	43	599,552	42	631,343	+ 5.3
Quebec	170	3,760,910	165	3,906,659	+ 3.9
Ontario	507	9,636,131	492	9,882,093	+ 2.6
Prairie Provinces	131	2,212,505	126	2,193,025	- 0.9
British Columbia .	93	1,632,788	92	1,679,760	+ 2.9

Independent Stores

Independent food retailers reported sales 7 per cent higher in December, 1945 than in December, 1944. In all provinces with the exception of Quebec, the increases were within two percentage points of the result for Canada as a whole. The volume of sales in Quebec stores increased by only 3 per cent in the December comparison. The largest among the regional increases were 9 per cent gains in Ontario, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Comparison of Sales Reported for December, 1944 and 1945

	No. of Stores Reporting	No. Reporting An Increase	% Change In Sales December, 1945 / December, 1944
CANADA	1,211	781	+ 6.6
Maritimes	180	105	+ 5.7
Quebec	238	174	+ 3.3
Ontario	391	265	+ 9.4
Manitoba	86	55	+ 6.6
Saskatchewan	60	41	+ 8.6
Alberta	102	72	+ 9.1
British Columbia ...	104	69	+ 6.0

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, JANUARY, 1946

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Wholesale Trade

January wholesale grocery sales advanced 13 per cent over January, 1945 sales and 9 per cent over the volume of business transacted in December, 1945. These data are based on returns received from 74 of the larger wholesale grocery establishments operating in Canada. The 13 per cent increase reflects an active market in all regions of the country, sales increasing 13 per cent in the Maritime Provinces, 8 per cent in Quebec, 16 per cent in Ontario, and 12 per cent in both the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia.

Wholesale fruit and vegetable sales were 23 per cent greater in January, 1946 than 1945 but January sales declined 22 per cent from the December, 1945 volume of trading. January sales were up 5 per cent in the Maritime Provinces and Quebec, 39 per cent in Ontario, and 19 per cent in the western provinces.

Wholesale grocers valued their stocks on hand at the end of January, 1946, 4 per cent lower than inventories held on the same date of last year, and 1 per cent below their stock holdings at the end of December. Inventories at the beginning of January are normally 63 per cent in excess of the business transacted during that month. Stocks on hand at the beginning of January, 1946, were 7 per cent greater than the volume of January sales, indicating that the inventory position at the beginning of January was decidedly below the normal situation for that period of the year.

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Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change	
		January, 1945	January, 1946	January, 1946 over January, 1945	January, 1946 over December, 1945
		$	$		
CANADA	74	19,583	22,045	+12.6	+ 8.9
Maritimes	16	2,715	3,059	+12.6	+ 9.6
Quebec	21	2,856	3,083	+ 8.0	- 9.4
Ontario	20	6,327	7,333	+15.9	+ 8.3
Prairies	11	4,951	5,523	+11.5	+19.8
British Columbia	6	2,734	3,047	+11.5	+ 5.3

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change	
		January, 1945	January, 1946	January, 1946 over January, 1945	January, 1946 over December, 1945
		$	$		
CANADA	44	6,604	8,103	+22.7	-21.9
Maritimes and Quebec ..	16	1,632	1,708	+ 4.7	-34.7
Ontario	15	2,363	3,284	+39.0	-10.6
Western Provinces	13	2,609	3,111	+19.2	-26.8

Retail Sales

Chain Stores

January, 1946 sales of 903 chain store units operated by 24 chain companies in the food retailing field were 11 per cent higher than sales of 879 stores operated by the same 24 firms in January, 1945. Average sales per store in January, 1946 were $17,907, 14 per cent above the $15,748 average for the same month of the previous year.

Sales of chain food stores increased by 16 per cent in the Prairie Provinces. The 9 per cent gain in Ontario between January of this year and last was lower than increases recorded elsewhere. Results for other sections of the country revealed gains of 12 or 13 per cent in each case.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for January, 1945 and 1946

	January, 1945		January, 1946		% Change In Sales January, 1946 / January, 1945
	No. of Stores	Sales $	No. of Stores	Sales $	
CANADA	903	14,220,069	879	15,740,088	+10.7
Maritimes	41	455,921	40	508,202	+11.5
Quebec	168	3,046,107	163	3,414,281	+12.1
Ontario	507	7,833,387	491	8,516,252	+ 8.7
Prairie Provinces ...	94	1,569,366	93	1,815,700	+15.7
British Columbia	93	1,315,288	92	1,485,653	+13.0

Independent Stores

Independent food retailers recorded a 9 per cent increase in sales for January, 1946 compared with January, 1945. Sales increases in the January comparison were much lower in eastern Canada than in Ontario and the western provinces. The Maritime Provinces and Quebec recorded gains of 8 and 5 per cent respectively. Apart from an outstanding increase of 19 per cent for Saskatchewan, sales moved uniformly upward in other provinces, increases over January, 1945 ranging from 10 per cent in Manitoba to 13 per cent in Alberta.

Comparison of Sales reported for January, 1945 and 1946

	No. of Stores Reporting	No. Reporting An Increase	% Change In Sales January, 1946 / January, 1945
CANADA	1,201	877	+ 9.4
Maritimes	174	115	+ 7.7
Quebec	283	183	+ 5.2
Ontario	382	285	+11.4
Manitoba	89	73	+10.4
Saskatchewan	59	53	+18.7
Alberta	107	83	+12.5
British Columbia ..	107	85	+11.5

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, FEBRUARY, 1946

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Wholesale Trade

Wholesale grocery sales transacted in February, 1946 increased 11 per cent over the volume of dollar sales realized in February of last year, according to statements received from 76 of the larger wholesale grocery houses operating in Canada, but February sales declined 7 per cent from the January level of trading. Results analysed on a regional basis showed considerable deviation from the average gain. Sales increased 4 per cent in the Maritime Provinces, 15 per cent in Quebec, 6 per cent in Ontario, 15 per cent in the Prairie Provinces, and 19 per cent in British Columbia.

The wholesale fruit and vegetable trade reported a 26 per cent gain in sales in February of this year over last, and sales increased 6 per cent over the January volume of trading. These data are based on returns received from 50 of the larger wholesale fruit and vegetable establishments operating in Canada. The trend of wholesale fruit and vegetable trading followed closely that of the grocery trade, increases being more pronounced in the western provinces than in the east.

Wholesale grocery inventories at the end of February, 1946, declined 7 per cent from the value of stocks on hand at the end of February, 1945, and were 2 per cent lower than the January month-end stock holdings. Inventories at the beginning of February are normally 66 per cent in excess of the business transacted during that month. Stocks on hand at the beginning of February, 1946, were 14 per cent greater than the volume of February sales, indicating that the inventory position at the beginning of February was decidedly below the normal situation for that period of the year.

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Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) February, 1945 $	Dollar Sales (add 000) February, 1946 $	Per cent change February, 1946 over February, 1945	Per cent change February, 1946 over January, 1946
CANADA	76	18,488	20,575	+11.3	- 6.6
Maritimes	17	2,612	2,728	+ 4.4	-17.8
Quebec	20	2,292	2,640	+15.2	+ 4.0
Ontario	20	6,055	6,421	+ 6.0	-12.6
Prairies	13	4,957	5,714	+15.3	- 1.3
British Columbia ...	6	2,572	3,072	+19.4	- 0.5

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) February, 1945 $	Dollar Sales (add 000) February, 1946 $	Per cent change February, 1946 over February, 1945	Per cent change February, 1946 over January, 1946
CANADA	50	6,958	8,785	+26.3	+ 5.6
Maritimes and Quebec	17	1,583	1,778	+12.3	+32.3
Ontario	19	2,816	3,592	+27.5	- 5.9
Western Provinces ..	14	2,559	3,415	+33.5	+ 9.1

Retail Sales
Chain Stores

February, 1346 sales of 882 chain store units operated by 25 chain companies in the food retailing field were 9 per cent higher than sales of 903 stores operated by the same 25 firms in February, 1945. Average sales per store in February, 1946 were $17,570,11 per cent above the $15,791 average for the same month of the previous year.

Sales in the western provinces were up 13 per cent over February a year ago, while in eastern and central areas the gains were lower and ranged between 7 and 9 per cent. Results for these two broad divisions would be more similar if allowance were made for the reduction in the number of stores operated, all of which took place in areas east of the Prairie Provinces.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for February, 1945 and 1946

	February, 1945		February, 1946		% Change In Sales Feb., 1946 Feb., 1945
	No. of Stores	Sales	No. of Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	903	14,259,597	882	15,496,416	+ 8.7
Maritimes	41	455,832	40	486,266	+ 6.7
Quebec	170	3,060,844	164	3,345,072	+ 9.3
Ontario	506	7,868,506	492	8,429,625	+ 7.1
Prairie Provinces ..	94	1,563,372	94	1,760,406	+12.6
British Columbia ...	92	1,311,043	92	1,475,047	+12.5

Independent Stores

February sales of independent food stores experienced the same increase over February of last year as did chain food companies. The increase is also on a par with that which was recorded in the January comparison. Outstanding among the results for various provinces was a 22 per cent increase in Saskatchewan. Alberta stores also had a prominent increase of 13 per cent. Gains elsewhere were fairly close to the average increase for the trade, except in the Maritime Provinces where a moderate advance of 4 per cent was recorded.

Comparison of Sales Reported For February, 1945 and 1946

	No. of Stores Reporting	No. Reporting An Increase	% Change In Sales February, 1946 February, 1945
CANADA	1,192	870	+ 9.0
Maritimes	173	99	+ 3.8
Quebec	283	203	+ 7.6
Ontario	383	283	+10.6
Manitoba	85	67	+10.1
Saskatchewan	60	49	+22.0
Alberta	102	85	+13.0
British Columbia ...	106	84	+ 7.5

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, MARCH, 1946

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Wholesale Trade

March wholesale grocery sales were 10 per cent greater than the dollar volume of grocery sales transacted in March, 1945 and were valued 8 per cent higher than sales realized in February, 1946. These results are based on data received from 75 of the larger wholesale grocery establishments operating in Canada. All regions of the country shared in the 10 per cent gain, sales increasing 6 per cent in the Maritime Provinces; 13 per cent in Quebec; 9 per cent in Ontario; 12 per cent in the Prairie Provinces; 9 per cent in British Columbia. Total sales for the first quarter of this year advanced 11 per cent over the corresponding period of 1945.

The fruit and vegetable trade reported 26 per cent more sales transacted in March, 1946 than 1945, and a gain of 23 per cent over February sales. Statements received from 46 of the larger wholesale fruit and vegetable houses revealed the foregoing data. The 26 per cent increase reflects substantial gains in Ontario and the western provinces which were partially offset by a smaller gain in the Maritime Provinces and Quebec. Sales advanced 33 per cent in Ontario, 29 per cent in the western provinces, and 10 per cent in the Maritime Provinces and Quebec. Cumulative fruit and vegetable sales for the first three months of this year stand 25 per cent above the January-March period of 1945.

March month-end wholesale grocery stocks declined 1 per cent from the inventories on hand at the end of March, 1945 but were valued 5 per cent higher than stocks held at the close of February. Inventories at the beginning of March are normally 49 per cent in excess of the volume of business transacted during that month. Stocks on hand at the beginning of March, 1946, were 2 per cent below the volume of March sales, indicating that the inventory position at the beginning of March was decidedly below the normal situation for that period of the year.

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Single Copies, .10

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change		
		March, 1945	March, 1946	March, 1946 over March, 1945	March, 1946 over February 1946	Year-to-date, 1946 Year-to-date, 1945
		$	$			
CANADA	75	20,706	22,728	+ 9.8	+ 8.2	+11.1
Maritimes	17	2,959	3,124	+ 5.6	+17.4	+ 7.5
Quebec	19	2,803	3,171	+13.2	+11.0	+11.5
Ontario	21	6,584	7,152	+ 8.6	+ 8.7	+10.0
Prairies	12	5,406	6,068	+12.2	+ 7.0	+13.0
British Columbia .	6	2,954	3,213	+ 8.8	+ 3.1	+13.0

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change		
		March, 1945	March, 1946	March, 1946 over March, 1945	March, 1946 over February, 1946	Year-to-date, 1946 Year-to-date, 1945
		$	$			
CANADA	46	8,270	10,414	+25.9	+22.7	+25.1
Maritimes and Quebec	15	1,916	2,100	+ 9.6	+12.2	+ 9.7
Ontario	17	3,304	4,380	+32.5	+31.7	+31.7
Western Provinces ...	14	3,050	3,934	+29.0	+18.1	+27.3

Retail Sales
Chain Stores

March, 1946 sales of 888 chain store units operated by 26 chain companies in the food retailing field were 9 per cent higher than sales of 908 stores operated by the same 26 firms in March, 1945. Average sales per store in March, 1946 were $20,713, 11 per cent above the $18,653 average for the same month of the previous year.

Increases in dollar sales were highest in western Canada, amounting to 13 per cent in the Prairie Provinces and 10 per cent in British Columbia. In eastern sections of the country gains tapered down to 9 per cent in Ontario, 7 per cent in Quebec and 2 per cent in the Maritime Provinces.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for March, 1945 and 1946

	March, 1945		March, 1946		% Change In Sales Mar., 1946 Mar., 1945
	No. of Stores	Sales	No. of Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	908	16,937,235	888	18,393,311	+ 8.6
Maritimes	41	552,709	40	562,096	+ 1.7
Quebec	167	3,610,885	162	3,848,009	+ 6.6
Ontario	515	9,291,274	500	10,099,706	+ 8.7
Prairie Provinces	93	1,899,895	94	2,142,545	+12.8
British Columbia	92	1,582,472	92	1,740,955	+10.0

Independent Stores

Independent food merchants reported sales which averaged 5 per cent higher in March this year than last, the gain being somewhat smaller than that for chain firms in the same month. Stores operating in the Prairie Provinces experienced highest gains, but there was wide divergence in the extent of sales increases even within that area. Saskatchewan stores had an increase of 17 per cent followed by gains of 13 per cent in Alberta and 8 per cent in Manitoba. The increase in British Columbia was 4 per cent, a much smaller gain than was reported by chain companies in that province. In eastern areas, increases were as follows; 6 per cent in Ontario; 3 per cent in Quebec and 1 per cent in the Maritime Provinces.

Comparison of Sales Reported For March, 1945 and 1946

	No. of Stores Reporting	No. Reporting An Increase	% Change In Sales March, 1946 March, 1945
CANADA	1,196	733	+ 5.4
Maritimes	180	90	+ 0.9
Quebec	271	142	+ 3.4
Ontario	373	222	+ 6.4
Manitoba	89	63	+ 8.4
Saskatchewan	60	49	+16.5
Alberta	108	85	+12.8
British Columbia	115	82	+ 4.0

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Minister of Trade and Commerce

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
MERCHANDISING AND SERVICES BRANCH
OTTAWA, CANADA

63-D-01

Dominion Statistician; Herbert Marshall, B.A., F.S.S.
Chief, Merchandising and Services Branch; A.C. Steedman, B.A.
Vol. 8 - No. 4 16-4050

CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, APRIL, 1946

Indexes reflecting current trends in food distribution in Canada have been published for some years, indexes of retail grocery and wholesale grocery and fruits and vegetables sales forming components of the two regular monthly bulletins on retail and wholesale trade issued by the Merchandising and Services Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This series brings together in one report the information on retail grocery and wholesale grocery and fruit and vegetable sales contained in the other bulletins thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution.

Wholesale Trade

The dollar volume of sales transacted by wholesale grocers in April, 1946 advanced 14 per cent over April, 1945 and one per cent over March, 1946 sales, according to statements received from 73 of the larger wholesale grocery establishments operating in Canada. While each region of the country reported increased trading activities, gains were smaller in the eastern areas of the country than in Ontario and the western provinces. Sales increased 5 per cent in the Maritime Provinces, 12 per cent in Quebec, 14 per cent in Ontario, 18 per cent in the Prairie Provinces, and 17 per cent in British Columbia.

April wholesale fruit and vegetable sales gained 26 per cent this year over last and were 8 per cent higher than the March, 1946 volume of trading. These results are based on reports received from 49 of the larger wholesale fruit and vegetable houses in Canada. Substantial gains were recorded by each region, sales increasing 17 per cent in the Maritime Provinces and Quebec, 29 per cent in Ontario, and 30 per cent in the western provinces.

Wholesale grocery stocks at the end of April fell 3 per cent below the inventories held on the same date of 1945, and 5 per cent below the March month-end stock holdings. Inventories at the beginning of April are normally 35 per cent in excess of the volume of business transacted during that month. Stocks on hand at the beginning of April, 1946, were 6 per cent below the volume of April sales, indicating that the inventory position at the beginning of April was below the normal situation for that period of the year.

Year's Subscription, $1.00
Single Copies, .10

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) April, 1945	Dollar Sales (add 000) April, 1946	Per cent change April, 1946 over April, 1945	Per cent change April, 1946 over March, 1946	Per cent change Year-to-date, 1946 / Year-to-date, 1945
		$	$			
CANADA	73	19,293	21,969	+13.9	+ 1.1	+11.8
Maritimes	17	2,702	2,840	+ 5.1	- 3.6	+ 6.9
Quebec	19	2,997	3,341	+11.5	+ 3.8	+11.4
Ontario	20	5,927	6,759	+14.0	+ 2.1	+11.0
Prairies	11	4,924	5,809	+18.0	- 0.2	+14.3
British Columbia	6	2,743	3,220	+17.4	+ 1.6	+14.1

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) April, 1945	Dollar Sales (add 000) April, 1946	Per cent change April, 1946 over April, 1945	Per cent change April, 1946 over March, 1946	Per cent change Year-to-date, 1946 / Year-to-date, 1945
CANADA	49	8,963	11,322	+26.3	+ 8.3	+26.0
Maritimes and Quebec .	16	2,135	2,494	+16.9	+17.8	+15.5
Ontario	19	3,569	4,597	+28.8	+ 1.1	+30.5
Western Provinces	14	3,259	4,231	+29.8	+ 6.8	+27.9

Retail Sales

Chain Stores

April, 1946 sales of 874 chain store units operated by 24 chain companies in the food retailing field were 13 per cent higher than sales of 893 stores operated by the same 24 firms in April, 1945. Average sales per store in April, 1946 were $19,111, 16 per cent above the $16,496 average for the same month of the previous year.

Chain food stores in British Columbia had larger increases than had those located elsewhere, as sales volume moved 18 per cent ahead of that for April of last year. The Prairie Provinces followed with an increase of 15 per cent. Slightly lower increases of 13 per cent occurred in Ontario and Quebec, while a comparatively moderate advance of 8 per cent was reported for the Maritime Provinces. The results for Ontario and Quebec would conform more closely with those for the western provinces if average sales per store were used as the basis of measurement. There was a slight reduction in the number of Quebec and Ontario chain stores in operation in 1946 compared with last year.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for April, 1945 and 1946

	April, 1945		April, 1946		% Change In Sales Apr., 1946 / Apr., 1945
	No. of Stores	Sales	No. of Stores	Sales	
CANADA	893	14,730,490	874	16,703,296	+13.4
Maritimes	33	425,329	32	458,739	+ 7.9
Quebec	166	3,049,861	162	3,452,138	+13.2
Ontario	508	8,103,800	494	9,120,476	+12.6
Prairie Provinces ..	94	1,736,562	94	2,001,087	+15.2
British Columbia ...	92	1,414,938	92	1,670,856	+18.1

Independent Stores

Retail sales by independent food stores averaged 12 per cent higher for the country as a whole in April this year compared with last. Saskatchewan continued somewhat ahead of other provinces in the rate of increase, with sales 20 per cent higher in April of this year than last. Other sizable increases were those of 17 per cent for Alberta and 15 per cent for both Manitoba and Ontario. British Columbia independent stores had a somewhat smaller increase in business than did chain stores in that province, sales being up 11 per cent over April, 1945. Smallest increases were those for Quebec and the Maritime Provinces which amounted to 9 and 7 per cent respectively.

Comparison of Sales Reported for April, 1945 and 1946

	No. of Stores Reporting	No. Reporting An Increase	% Change In Sales April, 1946 / April, 1945
CANADA	1,207	891	+11.9
Maritimes	181	111	+ 7.0
Quebec	285	201	+ 9.0
Ontario	389	287	+14.7
Manitoba	85	69	+14.6
Saskatchewan	56	49	+20.3
Alberta	103	92	+16.5
British Columbia ...	108	82	+10.8

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DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
MERCHANDISING AND SERVICES BRANCH
OTTAWA, CANADA

Dominion Statistician: Herbert Marshall, B.A., F.S.S.
Chief, Merchandising and Services Branch: A. C. Steedman, B.A.

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, MAY, 1946

Indexes reflecting current trends in food distribution in Canada have been published for some years, indexes of retail grocery and wholesale grocery and fruits and vegetables sales forming components of the two regular monthly bulletins on retail and wholesale trade issued by the Merchandising and Services Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This series brings together in one report the information on retail grocery and wholesale grocery and fruit and vegetable sales contained in the other bulletins thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution.

Wholesale Trade

May wholesale food sales showed marked expansions over May, 1945, the wholesale grocery trade advancing 16 per cent and the fruit and vegetable trade 25 per cent. These data are based on statements received from 79 of the larger wholesale grocery establishments and 46 wholesale fruit and vegetable merchants. These increases fall in line with the general pattern of wholesale trading witnessed in May, the composite unadjusted index of May, 1946, sales rising to a level considerably higher than that recorded for any month in recent years.

The wholesale grocery trade had an active market in all regions of the country, although the sales expansion was smaller in the Maritime Provinces than elsewhere. Wholesale grocery sales increased 6 per cent in the Maritime Provinces, 17 per cent in Quebec, 16 per cent in Ontario, 17 per cent in the Prairie Provinces, and 23 per cent in British Columbia in May of this year over last. May wholesale grocery sales advanced 15 per cent over the April, 1946, volume of trading.

Wholesale fruit and vegetable sales maintained a high level of trading in all regions of the country in May, 1946 over 1945, sales advancing 11 per cent in the Maritime Provinces and Quebec, 26 per cent in Ontario, and 32 per cent in British Columbia. Sales for the month were valued 5 per cent higher than the dollar value of trading transacted in April, 1946.

The inventory position at the end of May increased 4 per cent over May, 1945, but declined 1 per cent from the stocks held at the end of April, 1946. Inventories at the end of May are normally 26 per cent in excess of the volume of business transacted during that month. Stocks on hand at the beginning of May, 1946, were 17 per cent below the volume of May sales, indicating that the inventory position at the beginning of May was decidedly below the normal situation for that period of the year.

Year's Subscription, $1.00
Single Copies, .10

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) May, 1945 $	Dollar Sales (add 000) May, 1946 $	Per cent change May, 1946 over May, 1945	Per cent change May, 1946 over April, 1946	Per cent change Year-to-date, 1946 / Year-to-date, 1945
CANADA	79	22,580	26,254	+16.3	+14.9	+12.7
Maritimes	11	2,997	3,180	+ 6.1	+13.9	+ 6.7
Quebec	21	3,441	4,030	+17.1	+16.8	+13.0
Ontario	21	6,981	8,086	+15.8	+18.3	+11.9
Prairies	14	6,151	7,247	+17.8	+16.7	+15.1
British Columbia	6	3,010	3,711	+23.3	+11.3	+16.0

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Trade By Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) May, 1945 $	Dollar Sales (add 000) May, 1946 $	Per cent change May, 1946 over May, 1945	Per cent change May, 1946 over April, 1946	Per cent change Year-to-date, 1946 / Year-to-date, 1945
CANADA	46	9,403	11,738	+24.8	+ 4.6	+25.7
Maritimes and Quebec ..	15	1,998	2,216	+10.9	- 2.1	+14.6
Ontario	19	4,015	5,046	+25.7	+ 5.5	+29.3
Western Provinces	12	3,390	4,476	+32.0	+10.8	+28.9

Retail Sales
Chain Stores

May, 1946 sales of 877 chain store units operated by 25 chain companies in the food retailing field were 9 per cent higher than sales of 891 stores operated by the same 25 firms in May, 1945. Average sales per store in May, 1946 were $19,920, 11 per cent above the $17,934 average for the same month of the previous year.

A 20 per cent increase in chain food store sales for British Columbia was outstanding. Increases elsewhere amounted to 14 per cent in the Prairie Provinces, 11 per cent in Quebec, 6 per cent in Ontario and 4 per cent in the Maritime Provinces.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for May, 1945 and 1946

	May, 1945		May, 1946		% Change In Sales May, 1946 / May, 1945
	No. of Stores	Sales $	No. of Stores	Sales $	
CANADA	891	15,978,862	877	17,469,829	+ 9.3
Maritimes	32	463,866	32	481,700	+ 3.8
Quebec	165	3,329,026	164	3,684,194	+10.7
Ontario	508	8,756,732	495	9,304,684	+ 6.3
Prairie Provinces ..	94	1,927,944	94	2,197,594	+14.0
British Columbia ...	92	1,501,294	92	1,801,657	+20.0

Independent Stores

Retail sales by independent food stores averaged 11 per cent higher for the country as a whole in May this year compared with last. The large increases which have characterized results for Saskatchewan in recent months continued in May when sales in that province were 22 per cent above May, 1945 volume. Other provinces recording increases above the average result were Alberta, 14 per cent, and Ontario, 13 per cent. Increases in other areas ranged downwards to a low of 7 per cent in British Columbia.

Comparison of Sales Reported for May, 1945 and 1946

	No. of Stores Reporting	No. Reporting An Increase	% Change In Sales May, 1946 / May, 1945
CANADA	1,202	871	+11.2
Maritimes	175	111	+ 8.9
Quebec	277	198	+ 8.7
Ontario	390	277	+13.3
Manitoba	86	67	+11.4
Saskatchewan	63	55	+21.6
Alberta	101	86	+14.6
British Columbia ...	110	77	+ 7.3

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DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
MERCHANDISING AND SERVICES SECTION
OTTAWA, CANADA

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, JUNE, 1946

Indexes reflecting current trends in food distribution in Canada have been published for some years, indexes of retail grocery and wholesale grocery and fruits and vegetables sales forming components of the two regular monthly bulletins on retail and wholesale trade issued by the Merchandising and Services Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This series brings together in one report the information on retail grocery and wholesale grocery and fruit and vegetable sales contained in the other bulletins thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution.

Wholesale Trade

Wholesale food sales were valued considerably higher in June of this year than last, the grocery trade increasing by 7 per cent and the fruit and vegetable trade by 18 per cent. The foregoing results are based on statements received from 70 of the larger grocery establishments and 47 fruit and vegetable merchants operating in Canada.

The 7 per cent increase over June, 1945 reported by the wholesale grocery trade results from substantially above average increases in the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia partially offset by declines in the Maritime Provinces and Quebec. A comparison of sales by regions for June, 1946 and 1945, is as follows: Maritime Provinces, -1 per cent; Quebec, -5 per cent; Ontario, +9 per cent; Prairie Provinces, +14 per cent; and British Columbia, +12 per cent. June grocery sales fell 7 per cent below the volume of trading in May, while total sales for the first half of the year averaged 11 per cent higher than those made in the first six-month period of 1945.

Fruit and vegetable wholesalers throughout the country shared in the 18 per cent gain in June of this year over last. The western provinces again led with an advance of 26 per cent, followed by Ontario at 13 per cent and the Maritime Provinces and Quebec at 12 per cent. Compared with the preceding month, June sales were 2 per cent lower, while aggregate sales for the January-June period of this year were 24 per cent greater than for the same months of 1945.

Stocks reported on hand by wholesale grocers at the end of June were valued 5 per cent higher than on June 30, 1945, but were 4 per cent below the inventories held on May 31, 1946. Inventories at the beginning of June are normally 20 per cent in excess of the volume of business transacted during that month. Stocks on hand at the beginning of June, 1946, were 1 per cent below the volume of June sales, indicating that the inventory position at the beginning of June this year was below the normal situation for that period of the year.

Year's Subscription, $1.00
Single Copies, .10

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) June, 1945	Dollar Sales (add 000) June, 1946	Per cent change June, 1946 over June, 1945	Per cent change June, 1946 over May, 1946	Per cent change Year-to-date, 1946 / Year-to-date, 1945
		$	$			
CANADA	70	22,084	23,711	+ 7.4	- 7.0	+11.1
Maritimes	11	3,241	3,197	- 1.4	- 4.9	+ 3.8
Quebec	19	2,949	2,792	- 5.3	-19.1	+ 9.0
Ontario	22	7,101	7,740	+ 9.0	- 8.7	+10.7
Prairies	12	5,713	6,521	+14.1	- 6.2	+14.5
British Columbia	6	3,080	3,461	+12.4	- 0.5	+13.7

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) June, 1945	Dollar Sales (add 000) June, 1946	Per cent change June, 1946 over June, 1945	Per cent change June, 1946 over May, 1946	Per cent change Year-to-date, 1946 / Year-to-date, 1945
		$	$			
CANADA	47	10,530	12,401	+17.8	- 2.0	+24.0
Maritimes and Quebec .	16	2,468	2,754	+11.6	+10.4	+12.8
Ontario	17	4,031	4,554	+13.0	- 9.9	+19.1
Western Provinces	14	4,031	5,093	+26.3	+ 4.4	+28.4

Retail Sales
Chain Stores

June, 1946 sales of 876 chain store units operated by 25 chain companies in the food retailing field were 8 per cent higher than sales of 887 stores operated by the same 25 firms in June, 1945. Average sales per store in June, 1946 were $20,985, 9 per cent above the $19,243 average for the same month of the previous year.

The largest increase in chain food store sales was recorded in British Columbia where trading stood 14 per cent higher than in June, 1945. This was followed closely by the Prairie Provinces with a gain of 10 per cent. Increases elsewhere were 7 per cent in Ontario, 6 per cent in Quebec and 4 per cent in the Maritime Provinces.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for June, 1945 and 1946

	June, 1945		June, 1946		% Change In Sales June, 1946 / June, 1945
	No. of Stores	Sales	No. of Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	887	17,068,824	876	18,382,946	+ 7.7
Maritimes	32	517,736	33	538,588	+ 4.0
Quebec	165	3,561,278	164	3,777,612	+ 6.1
Ontario	495	9,176,732	486	9,806,668	+ 6.9
Prairie Provinces ..	103	2,149,648	101	2,365,986	+10.1
British Columbia ...	92	1,663,430	92	1,894,092	+13.9

Independent Stores

Retail sales by independent food stores in June were 5 per cent higer for the country as a whole than in the same month of 1945. Increases in Saskatchewan and Alberta were somewhat higher than the average standing at 13 and 15 per cent, respectively. Other provinces showing smaller gains were Manitoba and British Columbia 9 per cent and Ontario 6 per cent, while Quebec and the Maritime Provinces were practically unchanged from last year.

Comparison of Sales Reported for June, 1945 and 1946

	No. of Stores Reporting	No. Reporting An Increase	% Change In Sales June, 1946 / June, 1945
CANADA	1,230	738	+ 5.0
Maritimes	188	85	+ 1.4
Quebec	282	142	- 0.1
Ontario	387	235	+ 6.2
Manitoba	88	63	+ 9.1
Saskatchewan	66	51	+13.3
Alberta	105	87	+14.5
British Columbia ...	114	75	+ 8.8

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, JULY, 1946

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Wholesale Trade

Wholesale food sales in July showed substantial increases in volume over July of last year, the wholesale grocery trade advancing 18 per cent while sales in the fruit and vegetable trade were up 15 per cent. These results are based on statements received from 76 of the larger grocery wholesalers and 44 wholesale fruit and vegetable dealers.

The 18 per cent average increase over 1945 in the grocery trade for Canada was a result of fairly constant rises in sales in all parts of the country. Wholesale grocery sales increased 19 per cent in the Maritime Provinces and Ontario, 18 per cent in the Prairies and British Columbia, while only a slightly lower increase of 15 per cent was recorded for Quebec. July sales in the wholesale grocery trade were 9 per cent above those for June, while the first seven months of 1946 showed a gain of 13 per cent over the corresponding period last year.

Sales of fruits and vegetables in Canada in July, 1946 increased 15 per cent over July, 1945 but were practically unchanged from June of this year. Fruit and vegetable sales for the year to date were 22 per cent higher than in the first seven months of 1945. The western provinces and Ontario showed marked increases in sales, the former being up 24 per cent and the latter, 19 per cent. A decrease in sales of fruits and vegetables of 8 per cent was recorded for the Maritime Provinces and Quebec.

Wholesale grocery stocks on hand at the end of July, 1946 were 14 per cent higher than at July 30, 1945, but were valued one per cent below those on hand at the end of June. Inventories at the beginning of July are normally 7 per cent in excess of the volume of business transacted in that month. Stocks on hand at the beginning of July, 1946 were 14 per cent below the volume of July sales, indicating that the inventory position at the beginning of July this year was below the normal situation for that period.

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Single Copies, .10

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change		
		July 1945	July 1946	July, 1946 over July 1945	July, 1946 over June 1946	Year-to-date, 1946 / Year-to-date, 1945
		$	$			
CANADA	76	21,930	25,848	+17.9	+ 8.6	+12.7
Maritimes	17	3,079	3,678	+19.4	+12.7	+ 7.7
Quebec	20	3,397	3,908	+15.0	+17.8	+10.7
Ontario	21	6,853	8,145	+18.9	+ 7.0	+12.4
Prairies	12	5,751	6,768	+17.7	+ 9.8	+15.4
British Columbia	6	2,850	3,349	+17.5	- 4.2	+15.7

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change		
		July 1945	July 1946	July, 1946 over July 1945	July, 1946 over June 1946	Year-to-date, 1946 / Year-to-date, 1945
		$	$			
CANADA	44	11,799	13,513	+14.5	+ 0.2	+21.9
Maritimes and Quebec .	13	2,792	2,579	- 7.6	-27.9	+ 8.5
Ontario	17	4,262	5,052	+18.5	+ 8.8	+24.7
Western Provinces	14	4,745	5,882	+23.9	+ 9.9	+27.6

Retail Sales

Chain Stores

July, 1946 sales of 869 chain store units operated by 24 chain companies in the food retailing field were 15 per cent higher than sales of 878 stores operated by the same 24 firms in July, 1945. Average sales per store in July, 1946 were $19,909, 16 per cent above the $17,216 average for the same month of the previous year.

Quebec chain food store sales registered a greater increase than those in other regions of the country, standing 17 per cent above July, 1945. Ontario followed with a gain of 15 per cent. The other areas, the Prairie Provinces, Maritime Provinces and British Columbia, showed fairly uniform gains of 13 per cent, 12 per cent and 11 per cent respectively.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for July, 1945 and 1946

	July, 1945		July, 1946		% Change In Sales July, 1946 / July, 1945
	No. of Stores	Sales $	No. of Stores	Sales $	
CANADA	878	15,115,640	869	17,300,586	+14.5
Maritimes	32	502,166	33	562,936	+12.1
Quebec	165	3,102,382	164	3,625,517	+16.9
Ontario	494	8,120,696	486	9,319,270	+14.8
Prairie Provinces ..	95	1,904,479	94	2,150,257	+12.9
British Columbia ...	92	1,485,917	92	1,642,606	+10.5

Independent Stores

Sales of independent food stores for the country as a whole were 9 per cent higher than in July last year. The Prairie Provinces and Ontario somewhat exceeded this average with increases of 15 per cent in Alberta, 14 per cent in Manitoba and 11 per cent in Saskatchewan and Ontario. British Columbia was on a par with Canada, while in the Maritime Provinces and Quebec smaller increases of 8 per cent and 5 per cent were recorded.

Comparison of Sales Reported for July, 1945 and 1946

	No. of Stores Reporting	No. Reporting An Increase	% Change In Sales July, 1946 / July, 1945
CANADA	1,228	857	+ 9.1
Maritimes	185	122	+ 7.8
Quebec	290	178	+ 4.5
Ontario	390	282	+11.2
Manitoba	86	68	+14.1
Saskatchewan	68	47	+11.3
Alberta	100	82	+15.4
British Columbia ...	109	78	+ 9.4

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DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
MERCHANDISING AND SERVICES SECTION
OTTAWA, CANADA

Dominion Statistician: Herbert Marshall, O.B.E., B.A., F.S.S.
Director, Division of Census of Industry and Merchandising: W. H. Losee, B.Sc.
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Vol. 8 - No. 8 16-4050

CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, AUGUST, 1946

Indexes reflecting current trends in food distribution in Canada have been published for some years, indexes of retail grocery and wholesale grocery and fruits and vegetables sales forming components of the two regular monthly bulletins on retail and wholesale trade issued by the Merchandising and Services Section of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This series brings together in one report the information on retail grocery and wholesale grocery and fruit and vegetable sales contained in the other bulletins thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution.

Wholesale Trade

Dollar volume of wholesale food sales in Canada continued through the month of August to show increases over the corresponding month of 1945 according to statements received from 75 of the larger grocery wholesalers and 45 wholesalers of fruits and vegetables. Wholesale sales volume in the grocery trade was 19 per cent above that for August, 1945, while sales of fruit and vegetable establishments increased by 12 per cent.

Wholesale grocers in all regions of the country reported increases in sales volume in August this year compared with last. Those in the Maritime Provinces reported a less-than-average gain of 8 per cent over August, 1945, while the largest increase was registered in Ontario where sales were 27 per cent higher in August than in the same month of last year. Wholesale grocery sales were up 17 per cent from 1945 in the Prairie Provinces, 18 per cent in Quebec, and 19 per cent in British Columbia. Compared with July, 1946, sales in the wholesale grocery trade for Canada as a whole increased 3 per cent, while the cumulative total for the first eight months of 1946 was 14 per cent above that for the corresponding period of 1945.

Sales of fruits and vegetables in Canada increased 12 per cent over August, 1945, with the Western Provinces showing the largest gain of 20.5 per cent. Wholesalers of fruits and vegetables in the Maritime Provinces and Quebec reported an increase of 2.5 per cent, while those in Ontario had sales 7 per cent higher than in August a year ago. A 5 per cent decrease in sales from July, 1946 was registered for Canada as a whole, the increase of 13 per cent in the Western Provinces being offset by decreases of 15 per cent in Ontario and 24 per cent in the Maritime Provinces and Quebec. Cumulative sales for the first eight months of 1946 were 20 per cent higher than those for the corresponding period of 1945.

The value of stocks held by wholesale grocers at the end of August, 1946 was 17 per cent higher than at the same date last year, and was only slightly lower than at the end of July. Inventories at the beginning of August are normally 11 per cent in excess of the volume of business transacted during that month. Stocks on hand at the beginning of August were valued 17 per cent below the sales volume for

the month, indicating that the inventory position at the beginning of August this year was considerably below the normal situation for that period.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) August 1945 $	Dollar Sales (add 000) August 1946 $	Per cent change: August, 1946 over August 1945	Per cent change: August, 1946 over July 1946	Per cent change: Year-to-date, 1946 / Year-to-date, 1945
CANADA	75	21,126	25,109	+18.9	+ 2.8	+13.6
Maritimes	16	3,060	3,318	+ 8.4	- 6.9	+ 7.8
Quebec	21	3,316	3,905	+17.7	+ 1.5	+12.2
Ontario	20	5,881	7,464	+26.9	+ 9.4	+14.3
Prairies	12	5,948	6,960	+16.9	+ 1.0	+15.7
British Columbia	6	2,921	3,462	+18.7	+ 2.9	+16.1

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) August 1945 $	Dollar Sales (add 000) August 1946 $	Per cent change: August, 1946 over August 1945	Per cent change: August, 1946 over July 1946	Per cent change: Year-to-date, 1946 / Year-to-date, 1945
CANADA	45	10,954	12,253	+11.9	- 4.9	+20.4
Maritimes and Quebec .	17	2,337	2,395	+ 2.5	-24.0	+ 8.3
Ontario	17	3,770	4,018	+ 6.6	-14.7	+22.3
Western Provinces	11	4,847	5,840	+20.5	+13.2	+26.3

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Retail Sales

Chain Stores

August, 1946 sales of 870 chain store units operated by 24 chain companies in the food retailing field were 24 per cent higher than sales of 879 stores operated by the same 24 firms in August, 1945. Average sales per store in August, 1946 were $21,890, 25 per cent above the $17,500 average for the same month of the previous year.

Sales of chain food stores showed very uniform increases in all parts of the country. The Maritime Provinces, Quebec and Ontario did 25 per cent more business in August of this year than last, while the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia showed gains of 19 per cent.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for August, 1945 and 1946

	August, 1945		August, 1946		% Change In Sales Aug.,1946 / Aug.,1945
	No. of Stores	Sales $	No. of Stores	Sales $	
CANADA	879	15,382,841	870	19,043,968	+23.8
Maritimes	32	488,551	32	610,625	+25.0
Quebec	165	3,176,835	164	3,983,828	+25.4
Ontario	495	8,157,687	488	10,222,499	+25.3
Prairie Provinces ..	95	2,029,490	94	2,405,566	+18.5
British Columbia ...	92	1,530,278	92	1,821,450	+19.0

Independent Stores

Sales of independent food stores for the country as a whole were 13 per cent higher than in August last year. This gain, however, was surpassed by the Prairie Provinces and Ontario. Alberta lead the other regions with a sales expansion of 22 per cent, while Manitoba followed with an increase of 18 per cent, Ontario and Saskatchewan 15 per cent, the Maritime Provinces and British Columbia 12 per cent and Quebec 9 per cent.

Comparison of Sales Reported for August, 1945 and 1946

	No. of Stores Reporting	No. Reporting An Increase	% Change In Sales August, 1946 / August, 1945
CANADA	1,195	928	+13.4
Maritimes	175	127	+11.9
Quebec	265	190	+ 8.9
Ontario	386	301	+15.1
Manitoba	86	77	+17.9
Saskatchewan	67	57	+14.7
Alberta	102	89	+21.5
British Columbia ...	114	87	+12.1

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, SEPTEMBER, 1946

Indexes reflecting current trends in food distribution in Canada have been published for some years, indexes of retail grocery and wholesale grocery and fruits and vegetables sales forming components of the two regular monthly bulletins on retail and wholesale trade issued by the Merchandising and Services Statistics of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This series brings together in one report the information on retail grocery and wholesale grocery and fruit and vegetable sales contained in the other bulletins thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution.

Wholesale Trade

Sales of wholesale grocers in Canada in September, 1946, were 24 per cent higher than in the same month of 1945 and only one per cent below August when the highest volume since this series began was recorded. These figures are based on statements received from 74 of the larger grocery wholesalers in Canada. The gain over last year was general throughout the country, Ontario and Quebec showing the greatest expansion with increases of 31 per cent and 29 per cent respectively. British Columbia wholesalers, with a gain of 26 per cent over September, 1945, had the highest volume of business for any month since the inception of this series. Grocery sales in the Maritime Provinces were 19 per cent higher than last year, but dropped 3 per cent from the August level. Wholesalers in the Prairies, while recording a decrease of 2 per cent from August, had an increase in dollar volume of business over September, 1945, of 16 per cent. The cumulative totals for the year to date indicate that 1946 sales of wholesale grocers in Canada were 15 per cent higher than in the corresponding period of last year.

The dollar volume of sales in the wholesale fruit and vegetable trade in Canada increased 2 per cent over the already high volume of September last year, according to reports received from 48 of the larger dealers. A slight decrease was registered in the Maritime Provinces and Quebec, while sales in Ontario dropped 7 per cent from last year. Wholesalers of fruits and vegetables in the Western Provinces reported an increase of 9 per cent over September, 1945, a considerably less marked increase than the 21 per cent recorded in August, 1946 over 1945. A comparison of August and September sales reveal an increase of 52 per cent in dollar volume in the Maritimes, with a drop of 15 per cent in Ontario and 14 per cent in the Western Provinces. Cumulative sales for the first nine months of 1946 were 18 per cent higher than those for the corresponding period of 1945.

Wholesale grocers' stocks on hand at the end of September, 1946, were valued 27 per cent above those held at the same date last year, and 8 per cent higher than at the end of August. Inventories at the beginning of September are normally 10 per cent in excess of sales for the month. Stocks on hand at the beginning of September this year were valued 16 per cent below the sales volume for that month, indicating that the inventory position at the beginning of September this year was considerably below the normal situation for that period.

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Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change		
		Sept., 1945	Sept., 1946	Sept., 1946 over Sept., 1945	Sept., 1946 over Aug., 1946	Year-to-date, 1946 Year-to-date, 1945
		$	$			
CANADA	74	20,364	25,243	+24.0	- 1.2	+14.7
Maritimes	17	2,854	3,408	+19.4	- 3.3	+ 9.0
Quebec	20	3,214	4,142	+28.9	+ 5.1	+14.2
Ontario	19	5,492	7,174	+30.6	- 4.5	+15.5
Prairies	12	5,913	6,884	+16.4	- 2.3	+15.8
British Columbia	6	2,891	3,635	+25.7	+10.9	+17.2

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change		
		Sept., 1945	Sept., 1946	Sept., 1946 over Sept., 1945	Sept., 1946 over Aug., 1946	Year-to-date, 1946 Year-to-date, 1945
		$	$			
CANADA	48	10,610	10,815	+ 1.9	- 3.1	+18.0
Maritimes and Quebec .	16	2,029	2,020	- 0.4	+52.0	+ 7.1
Ontario	18	3,554	3,298	- 7.2	-14.6	+18.8
Western Provinces	14	5,027	5,497	+ 9.3	-14.2	+23.9

Retail Sales

Chain Stores

September, 1946 sales of 868 chain store units operated by 22 chain companies in the food retailing field were 7 per cent higher than sales of 874 stores operated by the same 22 firms in September, 1945. Average sales per store in September, 1946 were $18,566, 8 per cent above the $17,222 average for the same month of the previous year.

The largest among the regional increases for chain food stores are in eastern Canadian areas. A gain of 11 per cent in the Maritime Provinces was followed by increases of 9 per cent in Quebec and 7 per cent in Ontario. Increases in the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia fell slightly below the average result.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for September, 1945 and 1946

	September, 1945		September, 1946		% Change In Sales Sept., 1946 / Sept., 1945
	No. of Stores	Sales $	No. of Stores	Sales $	
CANADA	874	15,051,985	868	16,115,596	+ 7.1
Maritimes	32	457,820	32	508,045	+11.0
Quebec	165	3,167,493	165	3,463,841	+ 9.4
Ontario	496	7,966,106	492	8,530,895	+ 7.1
Prairie Provinces ..	89	1,956,751	87	2,024,816	+ 3.5
British Columbia ...	92	1,503,815	92	1,587,999	+ 5.6

Independent Stores

Sales of independent food stores in September showed almost the same average increase as did food chains. The pattern of the regional results differs somewhat, however, the larger gains occurring in western sections of the country. Gains in the four western provinces ranged between 7 and 10 per cent. Ontario stores averaged 6 per cent above September, 1945, while increases in Quebec and in the Maritime Provinces amounted to 4 per cent.

Comparison of Sales Reported for September, 1945 and 1946

	No. of Stores Reporting	No. Reporting An Increase	% Change In Sales September, 1946 / September, 1945
CANADA	1,204	736	+ 5.9
Maritimes	176	86	+ 3.9
Quebec	277	158	+ 3.7
Ontario	376	219	+ 6.4
Manitoba	84	62	+ 9.6
Saskatchewan	68	50	+ 8.9
Alberta	109	78	+ 6.8
British Columbia .	114	83	+ 8.6

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, OCTOBER, 1946

Indexes reflecting current trends in food distribution in Canada have been published for some years, indexes of retail grocery and wholesale grocery and fruits and vegetables sales forming components of the two regular monthly bulletins on retail and wholesale trade issued by the Merchandising and Services Statistics of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This series brings together in one report the information on retail grocery and wholesale grocery and fruit and vegetable sales contained in the other bulletins thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution.

Wholesale Trade

The dollar volume of sales of wholesale grocers during October, 1946 was 22 per cent higher than in the same month last year and 11 per cent above that for the month of September, 1946, according to statements received from 74 of the larger wholesale grocers throughout Canada. Gains were recorded in all sections of the country. Sales in the Maritime Provinces were up 11 per cent over 1945, while the other regions reported more substantial increases ranging between 22 and 26 per cent. Aggregate sales for the first ten months of 1946 were 16 per cent greater than in the corresponding period last year.

Sales of fruits and vegetables showed a more varied experience according to reports from 49 of the larger wholesalers in this trade. Decreases of 9 per cent reported for the Maritime Provinces and Quebec and of 7 per cent for Ontario were offset by a gain of 12 per cent in dollar volume of sales in the Western Provinces, with the result that sales for Canada as a whole showed practically no change from last year. October sales of fruits and vegetables dropped 4 per cent from the September level, while sales for the year to date stood 16 per cent above those for the corresponding period in 1945.

Stocks held by wholesale grocers at the end of October, 1946 were valued 32 per cent higher than at the same date last year and 13 per cent above those on hand at the end of September, 1946. Inventories at the beginning of October are normally 17 per cent in excess of sales for that month. This year, stocks on hand at the beginning of October were valued 17 per cent below the sales volume for that month, indicating that the inventory position was still considerably below the normal situation.

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Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) October 1945	Dollar Sales (add 000) October 1946	Per cent change Oct., 1946 over Oct. 1945	Per cent change Oct., 1946 over Sept. 1946	Per cent change Year-to-date, 1946 over Year-to-date, 1945
		$	$			
CANADA	74	23,388	28,501	+21.9	+11.0	+15.5
Maritimes	17	3,326	3,706	+11.4	+14.8	+ 9.3
Quebec	19	3,394	4,271	+25.8	+20.5	+15.7
Ontario	20	7,282	8,891	+22.1	+10.5	+16.3
Prairies	12	6,322	7,840	+24.0	+10.1	+16.7
British Columbia	6	3,064	3,793	+23.8	+ 3.3	+17.9

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) October 1945	Dollar Sales (add 000) October 1946	Per cent change Oct., 1946 over Oct. 1945	Per cent change Oct., 1946 over Sept. 1946	Per cent change Year-to-date, 1946 over Year-to-date, 1945
		$	$			
CANADA	49	11,156	11,159	(a)	- 4.4	+16.0
Maritimes and Quebec .	17	2,619	2,373	- 9.4	-21.0	+ 5.5
Ontario	18	4,157	3,888	- 6.5	+ 7.1	+16.0
Western Provinces	14	4,380	4,898	+11.8	- 4.3	+22.5

(a) Unchanged.

Retail Sales
Chain Stores

October, 1946 sales of 874 chain store units operated by 25 chain companies in the food retailing field were 12 per cent higher than sales of 880 stores operated by the same 25 firms in October, 1945. Average sales per store in October, 1946 were $20,052, 13 per cent above the $17,812 average for the same month of the previous year.

Increases in chain food stores were very uniform throughout all regions. British Columbia alone surpassed the average for the country as a whole by one per cent, while all other regions showed increases of 12 per cent over last year, except the Maritime Provinces where the gain was 11 per cent.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for October, 1945 and 1946

	October, 1945		October, 1946		% Change In Sales Oct., 1946 / Oct., 1945
	No. of Stores	Sales $	No. of Stores	Sales $	
CANADA	880	15,674,357	874	17,525,801	+11.8
Maritimes	32	454,124	32	503,445	+10.9
Quebec	165	3,477,282	165	3,883,325	+11.7
Ontario	497	8,388,108	493	9,355,462	+11.5
Prairie Provinces ..	94	1,892,398	93	2,125,484	+12.3
British Columbia ...	92	1,462,445	91	1,658,085	+13.4

Independent Stores

Independent food stores did 10 per cent more business in October this year than last. The largest increase was one of 14 per cent in Manitoba. This was closely followed by Ontario, Alberta, Saskatchewan, British Columbia and Quebec where increases ranged from 13 down to 9 per cent. The Maritime Provinces showed the smallest gain, sales being up only 6 per cent over October a year ago.

Comparison of Sales Reported for October, 1945 and 1946

	No. of Stores Reporting	No. Reporting An Increase	% Change In Sales October, 1946 / October, 1945
CANADA	1,237	888	+10.3
Maritimes	184	108	+ 5.9
Quebec	289	202	+ 8.8
Ontario	388	296	+12.8
Manitoba	86	73	+13.9
Saskatchewan	71	54	+10.7
Alberta	112	86	+11.9
British Columbia ..	107	69	+ 9.9

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, NOVEMBER, 1946

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Wholesale Trade

Dollar sales of wholesale grocers in November, 1946 were 18 per cent greater than in November, 1945, but dropped 7 per cent below the volume transacted in October, 1946. These figures are based on statements received from 76 of the larger wholesale grocers in Canada. All regions of the country had a share in the general increase over last year. Sales in the Maritime Provinces were up 14 per cent, in Ontario, 15 per cent, and in Quebec, 19 per cent. Slightly greater increases of 22 per cent and 23 per cent were recorded for the Prairies and British Columbia respectively. Cumulative sales transacted in the January-November period of 1946 were 16 per cent above those for the corresponding period of 1945.

November wholesale sales of fruits and vegetables reported by 48 of the larger wholesalers in this trade showed an overall decrease for Canada of 3 per cent from November a year ago. The October-November comparison revealed a drop of 9 per cent in dollar volume of sales between the two months. The trend between November, 1945 and November, 1946 varied in the different regions of the country. Wholesalers of fruits and vegetables in the Maritime Provinces registered a drop of 5 per cent in sales, those in Ontario, a decrease of 13 per cent while dealers in the Western provinces reported an increase of 11 per cent. Sales for the year to date were 14 per cent in advance of those for the corresponding period of 1945.

Wholesale grocers' stocks at the end of November, 1946 were valued 37 per cent higher than those held at the same date last year and 9 per cent above the value of stocks on hand at the end of October. Inventories at the beginning of November are normally 43 per cent in excess of sales for that month. Stocks on hand at the beginning of November this year were 1 per cent below the volume of November sales.

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Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) November 1945 $	Dollar Sales (add 000) November 1946 $	Per cent change Nov., 1946 over Nov., 1945	Per cent change Nov., 1946 over Oct., 1946	Per cent change Year-to-date, 1946 / Year-to-date, 1945
CANADA	76	23,955	28,345	+18.3	- 6.6	+15.8
Maritimes	15	2,945	3,356	+14.0	- 2.4	+ 9.7
Quebec	21	3,974	4,725	+18.9	-10.1	+16.0
Ontario	21	7,616	8,722	+14.5	- 6.9	+16.1
Prairies	13	6,259	7,650	+22.2	- 7.3	+17.2
British Columbia	6	3,161	3,892	+23.1	- 3.7	+18.4

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) November 1945 $	Dollar Sales (add 000) November 1946 $	Per cent change Nov., 1946 over Nov., 1945	Per cent change Nov., 1946 over Oct., 1946	Per cent change Year-to-date, 1946 / Year-to-date, 1945
CANADA	48	9,752	9,488	- 2.7	- 9.0	+14.2
Maritimes and Quebec .	17	2,303	2,184	- 5.1	+ 0.9	+ 4.5
Ontario	18	4,043	3,532	-12.6	- 1.7	+13.1
Western Provinces	13	3,406	3,772	+10.7	-13.4	+21.4

Retail Sales
Chain Stores

November, 1946 sales of 861 chain store units operated by 23 chain companies in the food retailing field were 17 per cent higher than sales of 868 stores operated by the same 23 firms in November, 1945. Average sales per store in November, 1946 were $21,887, 18 per cent above the $18,552 average for the same month of the previous year.

Sales of chain food stores showed the largest increase in Quebec and a gain of 21 per cent in that province was the only one among those for the various regions to surpass the average increase for Canada. Gains in other regions ranged from 17 per cent in British Columbia to 14 per cent in the Maritime Provinces.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for November, 1945 and 1946

	November, 1945		November, 1946		% Change In Sales Nov., 1946 / Nov., 1945
	No. of Stores	Sales	No. of Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	868	16,103,123	861	18,844,826	+17.0
Maritimes	32	463,706	32	526,494	+13.5
Quebec	165	3,457,640	165	4,171,095	+20.6
Ontario	486	8,791,691	480	10,209,545	+16.1
Prairie Provinces ..	93	1,890,890	93	2,180,517	+15.3
British Columbia ...	92	1,499,196	91	1,757,175	+17.2

Independent Stores

Independent stores did 12 per cent more business in November this year than last. Manitoba showed the largest gains, as it had done in October also. Sales were 17 per cent higher there than in November, 1945. This gain was closely followed by Saskatchewan where an increase of 16 per cent occurred. Alberta and British Columbia had 14 per cent increases while Ontario stores experienced a 13 per cent gain. Quebec and the Maritime Provinces recorded the smallest gains of 9 and 8 per cent respectively.

Comparison of Sales Reported for November, 1945 and 1946

	No. of Stores Reporting	No. Reporting An Increase	% Change In Sales November, 1946 / November, 1945
CANADA	1,202	926	+11.8
Maritimes	176	111	+ 8.2
Quebec	280	201	+ 9.2
Ontario	381	308	+13.1
Manitoba	84	75	+16.5
Saskatchewan	69	60	+15.9
Alberta	105	82	+13.9
British Columbia .	107	89	+13.7

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DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
MERCHANDISING AND SERVICES STATISTICS
OTTAWA, CANADA

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Vol. 8 - No. 12 16-4050

CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, DECEMBER, 1946

Indexes reflecting current trends in food distribution in Canada have been published for some years, indexes of retail grocery and wholesale grocery and fruits and vegetables sales forming components of the two regular monthly bulletins on retail and wholesale trade issued by the Merchandising and Services Statistics of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This series brings together in one report the information on retail grocery and wholesale grocery and fruit and vegetable sales contained in the other bulletins thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution.

Wholesale Trade

Wholesale grocers' sales in December, 1946 were 17 per cent greater in dollar volume than in the same month last year according to statements received from 73 of the larger firms across Canada. There was a seasonal drop from November of 13 per cent. The increase was general throughout the different regions of Canada, the greatest gain, 27 per cent, being recorded for British Columbia. Sales of wholesale grocers in Quebec were 21 per cent above those for December, 1945 and in the Prairies, 18 per cent. Lesser, but still substantial, increases were reported in Ontario and the Maritime Provinces where wholesalers' sales were 13 and 11 per cent higher respectively than in December last year. Preliminary figures for the twelve months of 1946 indicate that wholesale grocers' sales during that year were 16 per cent above the 1945 volume.

December sales of fruit and vegetable wholesalers were 7 per cent below the volume in December, 1945, continuing the trend that has been in evidence during the immediately preceding months, but were 5 per cent above those for November, 1946. These figures are based on statements from 46 of the larger wholesalers in this trade. Sales in the Western Provinces, which had been showing increases over 1945 in the past months despite decreased sales in the East, dropped in December to practically the same level as in December, 1945. A decrease of 12 per cent was recorded in the Maritimes and Quebec combined, while sales of wholesalers of fruits and vegetables in Ontario dropped 11 per cent below December a year ago. Sales for the twelve months of 1946 were 12 per cent higher than those in the year 1945.

The value of stocks in the hands of wholesale grocers at the end of December, 1946 was 44 per cent higher than at the same date last year and 13 per cent above the value of inventory at the end of November, 1946. Inventories at the beginning of December are normally 64 per cent in excess of sales in that month. Stocks at the beginning of December this year were valued 15 per cent higher than the sales during that month, indicating that the inventory position of wholesale grocers is still below normal.

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Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales		Per cent change		
		December 1945	December 1946	Dec., 1946 over Dec., 1945	Dec., 1946 over Nov., 1946	12 months 1946 / 12 months 1945
		$000	$000			
CANADA	73	20,824	24,358	+17.0	-13.1	+15.9
Maritimes	17	2,986	3,308	+10.8	-12.6	+ 9.7
Quebec	18	2,547	3,075	+20.7	-15.2	+16.4
Ontario	21	6,808	7,706	+13.2	- 8.9	+15.9
Prairies	11	5,487	6,477	+18.0	-23.4	+17.3
British Columbia	6	2,996	3,792	+26.6	- 3.2	+19.1

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales		Per cent change		
		December 1945	December 1946	Dec., 1946 over Dec., 1945	Dec., 1946 over Nov., 1946	12 months 1946 / 12 months 1945
		$000	$000			
CANADA	46	10,488	9,743	- 7.1	+ 5.4	+12.2
Maritimes and Quebec .	15	2,347	2,072	-11.7	+ 3.3	+ 3.1
Ontario	18	4,174	3,702	-11.3	+ 7.7	+10.6
Western Provinces	13	3,967	3,969	+ 0.1	- 2.5	+19.4

Retail Sales
Chain Stores

December, 1946 sales of 866 chain store units operated by 24 chain companies in the food retailing field were 5 per cent higher than sales of 873 stores operated by the same 24 firms in December, 1945. Average sales per store in December, 1946 were $21,873, 6 per cent above the $20,691 average for the same month of the previous year.

British Columbia reported the largest increase in chain food store sales in December of this year compared with last. A gain of 10 per cent in that province and one of 7 per cent in Quebec were the only two which exceeded the increase of 5 per cent for the Dominion. Gains of 4 per cent and 2 per cent occurred in Ontario and the Prairie Provinces respectively, while the Maritime Provinces showed a fractional decrease below December, 1945.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for December, 1945 and 1946

	December, 1945		December, 1946		% Change In Sales Dec., 1946 / Dec., 1945
	No. of Stores	Sales	No. of Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	873	18,063,533	866	18,941,964	+ 4.9
Maritimes	32	534,465	32	532,712	- 0.3
Quebec	165	3,916,311	164	4,177,045	+ 6.7
Ontario	491	9,892,958	486	10,302,350	+ 4.1
Prairie Provinces	93	2,042,837	93	2,079,170	+ 1.8
British Columbia	92	1,676,962	91	1,850,687	+10.4

Independent Stores

Independent stores did 4 per cent more business in December this year than in 1945. The western provinces reported the larger increases. British Columbia and Alberta experienced 9 per cent gains, which were closely followed by a 7 per cent advance in Manitoba. Saskatchewan, Ontario and Quebec each recorded 4 per cent gains, while sales in the Maritime Provinces were practically unchanged from December of last year.

Comparison of Sales Reported for December, 1945 and 1946

	No. of Stores Reporting	No. Reporting An Increase	% Change In Sales December, 1946 / December, 1945
CANADA	1,215	700	+ 4.4
Maritimes	188	86	+ 0.1
Quebec	286	169	+ 3.8
Ontario	372	197	+ 4.1
Manitoba	89	59	+ 6.5
Saskatchewan	67	38	+ 4.2
Alberta	103	78	+ 9.1
British Columbia	110	73	+ 9.0

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BAROMETRICS FILE

CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, JANUARY, 1947

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Wholesale Trade

The dollar sales volume of wholesale grocers in January, 1947 was 16 per cent higher than in January, 1946 and 7 per cent above that in December, 1946, according to statements received from 71 of the larger firms across Canada. The increase over January, 1946 was common to all regions of the country but was greater in the west than in the east. Grocers' sales in the Maritime Provinces were 6 per cent higher than in January, 1946, with progressively larger increases amounting to 14 per cent in Quebec, 16 per cent in Ontario, 18 per cent in the Prairie Provinces, and 21 per cent in British Columbia.

Sales of fruit and vegetable wholesalers continued to decline in January, 1947 when sales were 6 per cent below the corresponding month last year and 21 per cent less than sales in December, 1946. These percentages are based on statements submitted by 47 of the larger dealers across Canada. Those in the Maritime Provinces and Quebec reported a decrease from January, 1946 of 8 per cent, in Ontario the decrease was 9 per cent, while wholesalers in the Western Provinces registered a drop of one per cent in sales of fruits and vegetables.

Wholesale grocers valued their stocks on hand at the end of January, 1947, 44 per cent higher than inventories at the same date last year. There was practically no change in inventory value from that held at the end of December, 1947. Inventories at the beginning of January are normally 63 per cent in excess of sales in that month. Stocks at the beginning of January this year were valued 33 per cent higher than the sales during that month.

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Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change	
		January, 1946	January, 1947	January, 1947 over January, 1946	January, 1947 over December, 1946
		$	$		
CANADA	71	21,873	25,317	+15.7	+ 7.0
Maritime Provinces ..	14	2,753	2,920	+ 6.1	+ 4.4
Quebec	19	2,838	3,247	+14.4	-15.6
Ontario	22	7,694	8,945	+16.3	+10.6
Prairie Provinces ...	10	5,541	6,534	+17.9	+19.6
British Columbia	6	3,047	3,671	+20.5	- 0.8

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change	
		January, 1946	January, 1947	January, 1947 over January, 1946	January, 1947 over December, 1946
		$	$		
CANADA	47	8,563	8,083	- 5.6	-21.3
Maritimes and Quebec	16	1,688	1,560	- 7.5	-31.0
Ontario	18	3,764	3,439	- 8.6	-11.1
Western Provinces ..	13	3,111	3,084	- 0.9	-27.4

Retail Sales

Chain Stores

January, 1947 sales of 872 chain store units operated by 25 chain companies in the food retailing field were 15 per cent higher than sales of 881 stores operated by the same 25 firms in January, 1946. Average sales per store in January, 1947 were $20,704, 16 per cent above the $17,818 average for the same month of the previous year.

Quebec reported the largest increase in chain food store sales in January of this year compared with last. A gain of 19 per cent in that province was the only one to surpass the 15 per cent advance for Canada as a whole. Ontario experienced a 15 per cent gain, which was closely followed by increases of 13 per cent in British Columbia, 12 per cent in the Prairie Provinces and 10 per cent in the Maritime Provinces.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for January, 1946 and 1947

	January, 1946		January, 1947		% Change In Sales Jan., 1947 / Jan., 1946
	No. of Stores	Sales $	No. of Stores	Sales $	
CANADA	881	15,697,800	872	18,054,300	+15.0
Maritimes	30	424,300	31	464,800	+ 9.6
Quebec	163	3,414,300	162	4,070,900	+19.2
Ontario	495	8,537,100	488	9,787,100	+14.6
Prairie Provinces ...	101	1,836,600	100	2,052,300	+11.7
British Columbia	92	1,485,500	91	1,679,200	+13.0

Independent Stores

Independent food stores did 8 per cent more business in January, 1947 than in the same month of last year. Quebec and Ontario led other regions with increases of 11 and 10 per cent respectively. Sales gains in the Prairie Provinces averaged 8 per cent, while a smaller increase of 5 per cent was recorded in British Columbia and one of 2 per cent in the Maritime Provinces.

Comparison of Sales Reported for January, 1946 and 1947

	No. of Stores Reporting	No. Reporting An Increase	% Change In Sales January, 1947 / January, 1946
CANADA	1,129	720	+ 8.3
Maritimes	162	78	+ 1.7
Quebec	261	186	+11.4
Ontario	349	230	+ 9.8
Manitoba	80	50	+ 7.4
Saskatchewan	71	47	+ 8.3
Alberta	97	62	+ 8.1
British Columbia ..	109	67	+ 5.1

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BAROMETRICS FILE "√"

CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, FEBRUARY, 1947

Indexes reflecting current trends in food distribution in Canada have been published for some years, indexes of retail grocery and wholesale grocery and fruits and vegetables sales forming components of the two regular monthly bulletins on retail and wholesale trade issued by the Merchandising and Services Statistics of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This series brings together in one report the information on retail grocery and wholesale grocery and fruit and vegetable sales contained in the other bulletins thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution.

Wholesale Trade

The dollar volume of wholesale grocers' sales in February, 1947, was 16 per cent above February last year but declined 6 per cent below the January 1947 level, according to statements received from 75 of the larger firms across Canada. Wholesale grocers' sales in Quebec were up 10 per cent and in the Maritime Provinces and British Columbia, 13 per cent over February a year ago. More substantial gains of 18 per cent and 20 per cent were recorded for the Prairie Provinces and Ontario respectively.

Sales of wholesale dealers in fruits and vegetables continued below last year's dollar volume according to statements submitted by 46 of the larger firms across Canada. Sales in February, 1947, were 8 per cent below February, 1946, but 3 per cent above January, 1947. The decrease from last year was general across Canada. Wholesale sales in the Maritimes and Quebec were 7 per cent below February, 1946. In the Western Provinces, the decrease was 8 per cent, and in Ontario, 9 per cent.

Stocks on hand at the end of February in the wholesale grocery trade were valued 41 per cent higher than at the same date last year and were only 2 per cent lower than at the end of January, 1947. Inventories at the beginning of February are normally 66 per cent in excess of sales during that month. Stocks at the beginning of February this year were 42 per cent in excess of sales, indicating that while there was some improvement over the past few months, the stock position of wholesale grocers was still below normal.

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Single Copies, .10

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change	
		February, 1946	February, 1947	February, 1947 over February, 1946	January, 1947
		$	$		
CANADA	75	21,093	24,493	+16.1	- 5.9
Maritime Provinces ..	16	2,817	3,188	+13.2	-11.6
Quebec	18	2,771	3,052	+10.2	+ 0.7
Ontario	22	6,772	8,130	+20.1	-10.0
Prairie Provinces ...	13	5,661	6,663	+17.7	- 0.6
British Columbia	6	3,072	3,460	+12.6	- 7.1

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change	
		February, 1946	February, 1947	February, 1947 over February, 1946	January, 1947
		$	$		
CANADA	46	8,341	7,639	- 8.4	+ 2.8
Maritimes and Quebec	15	1,679	1,564	- 6.9	+30.3
Ontario	18	3,484	3,161	- 9.3	- 6.5
Western Provinces ..	13	3,178	2,914	- 8.3	-26.8

Retail Trade

Chain Stores - February, 1947 sales of 874 chain store units operated by 26 chain companies in the food retailing field were 15 per cent higher than sales of 885 stores operated by the same 26 firms in February, 1946. Average sales per store in February, 1947 were $20,276, 16 per cent above the $17,487 average for the same month of the previous year.

The largest increase in chain food store sales was recorded in Quebec. A gain of 22 per cent in February of this year compared with last in that province far exceeded increases for all other regions. The Maritime Provinces experienced a 15 per cent advance, which was the same as the Dominion average. Ontario, the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia all reported gains of approximately 12 per cent.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for February, 1946 and 1947

	February, 1946		February, 1947		% Change In Sales Feb., 1947 / Feb., 1946
	No. of Stores	Sales	No. of Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	885	15,476,600	874	17,721,200	+14.5
Maritime Provinces	32	427,400	32	490,900	+14.9
Quebec	164	3,344,700	164	4,082,700	+22.1
Ontario	492	8,430,300	484	9,468,100	+12.3
Prairie Provinces.	105	1,799,100	103	2,028,300	+12.7
British Columbia .	92	1,475,100	91	1,651,200	+11.9

Independent Stores - Independent food stores did 7 per cent more business in February 1947 than in the same month of 1946. Increases throughout the country ranged from 3 per cent in the Maritime Provinces to 11 per cent in Alberta. All other regions recorded uniform gains of 7 or 8 per cent over last year.

Comparison of Sales Reported for February, 1946 and 1947

	No. of Stores Reporting	No. Reporting An Increase	% Change in Sales February, 1947 / February, 1946
CANADA	1,178	725	+ 7.0
Maritimes	170	81	+ 2.8
Quebec	274	167	+ 7.1
Ontario	367	236	+ 7.9
Manitoba	82	51	+ 6.8
Saskatchewan	72	51	+ 8.2
Alberta	100	67	+10.6
British Columbia ..	113	72	+ 7.1

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, MARCH, 1947

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Wholesale Trade

March sales of wholesale grocers were 15 per cent above the dollar volume of business transacted during the same month last year and were valued 8 per cent higher than those for February, 1947, according to statements received from 78 of the larger wholesale grocery establishments in Canada. All regions of the country registered gains but increases were more substantial in the western provinces than in eastern Canada. Sales in British Columbia advanced 25 per cent and in the Prairie Provinces, 17 per cent. Wholesale grocers in Quebec reported an increase of 14 per cent while those in Ontario and the Maritime Provinces showed a gain of 12 per cent. Total sales for the first quarter of this year increased 15 per cent in dollar volume over the volume for the corresponding period of 1946.

The dollar volume of fruit and vegetable sales was maintained at a fairly high level although registering a 12 per cent decrease from the exceptionally high volume of sales in 1946. March, 1947 sales were 18 per cent higher than those in February. These data are based on statements received from 48 of the larger fruit and vegetable wholesalers in Canada. A drop of 19 per cent from 1946 was recorded in Ontario where sales had shown the largest increase last year over the previous year. Sales in the Maritime Provinces were 6 per cent below last year and in the Western Provinces, were down 7 per cent. Cumulative sales for the first three months were 9 per cent lower than those for the corresponding months last year.

March month-end grocery stocks were 34 per cent higher than those on hand at the same date last year but were 2 per cent lower in value than at the end of February, 1947. Inventories at the beginning of March are normally 49 per cent in excess of sales during that month. Stocks on hand at the beginning of March, 1947 were only 26 per cent in excess of March sales.

May 6, 1947

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Single Copies, .10

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change		
		March, 1946	March, 1947	March, 1947 over March, 1946	March, 1947 over February, 1947	Year-to-date, 1947 over Year-to-date, 1946
		$	$			
CANADA	78	23,352	26,911	+15.2	+ 8.0	+15.2
Maritime Provinces ..	16	3,217	3,496	+11.8	+14.8	+10.2
Quebec	22	3,504	3,993	+13.9	+17.0	+11.3
Ontario	22	7,353	8,195	+11.5	+ 0.8	+15.9
Prairie Provinces ...	12	6,155	7,224	+17.4	+ 7.2	+17.1
British Columbia	6	3,213	4,003	+24.6	+14.0	+19.3

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change		
		March, 1946	March, 1947	March, 1947 over March, 1946	March, 1947 over February, 1947	Year-to-date, 1947 over Year-to-date, 1946
		$	$			
CANADA	48	10,574	9,289	-12.1	+18.0	- 9.2
Maritimes and Quebec	16	2,124	2,000	- 5.8	+14.6	- 6.4
Ontario	19	4,557	3,686	-19.1	+17.7	-13.2
Western Provinces ..	13	3,893	3,603	- 7.4	+19.3	- 5.8

Retail Trade

Chain Stores - March, 1947 sales of 904 chain store units operated by 26 chain companies in the food retailing field were 12 per cent higher than sales of 913 stores operated by the same 26 firms in March, 1946. Average sales per store in March, 1947 were $22,964, 13 per cent above the $20,315 average for the same month of the previous year.

Quebec and the Maritime Provinces showed the largest increases in chain food store sales in March this year compared with last. A gain of 17 per cent in these two regions was followed by an advance of 14 per cent in British Columbia, and by identical gains of 10 per cent in Ontario and the Prairie Provinces.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for March, 1946 and 1947

	March, 1946		March, 1947		% Change In Sales March, 1947 March, 1946
	No. of Stores	Sales	No. of Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	913	18,547,400	904	20,759,600	+11.9
Maritime Provinces	30	472,300	31	550,100	+16.5
Quebec	164	3,910,000	164	4,564,900	+16.8
Ontario	487	10,038,100	480	11,038,100	+10.0
Prairie Provinces	138	2,389,600	136	2,623,400	+ 9.8
British Columbia .	94	1,737,400	93	1,983,100	+14.1

Independent Stores - Independent food stores did 5 per cent more business in March, 1947 than in the same month of 1946. The Maritime Provinces showed a decrease of 2 per cent, while all other regions of the country recorded very uniform gains ranging from 4 per cent in Saskatchewan to 7 per cent in Ontario.

Comparison of Sales Reported for March, 1946 and 1947

	No. of Stores Reporting	No. Reporting An Increase	% Change in Sales March, 1947 March, 1946
CANADA	1,151	663	+ 4.7
Maritime Provinces	166	66	- 1.5
Quebec	263	167	+ 5.6
Ontario	353	207	+ 6.5
Manitoba	87	50	+ 4.5
Saskatchewan	73	39	+ 3.6
Alberta	102	62	+ 4.7
British Columbia .	107	72	+ 6.4

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, APRIL, 1947

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Wholesale Trade

Wholesale grocers continued to record substantial increases over last year in dollar volume of sales. Statements received from 76 of the larger wholesalers in Canada indicated an increase of 17 per cent in April this year over April, 1946. Increases in the various regions of the country ranged from 9 per cent in the Prairie Provinces to 27 per cent in the Maritimes. Sales of wholesale grocers in British Columbia were 22 per cent above last year and in Ontario were up 21 per cent. Wholesalers in Quebec recorded an increase of 12 per cent in dollar volume of business. Cumulative sales in Canada for the year to date were 16 per cent higher in dollar volume than during the first four months of 1946.

Sales of fruits and vegetables in April were 11 per cent below last year's volume but were 10 per cent higher than in March. These figures are based on statements received from 48 of the larger wholesale dealers across Canada. The drop from last year was common to all sections of the country. Sales in the Maritime Provinces were down 12 per cent, in the Western Provinces, 11 per cent and in Ontario, 9 per cent. The cumulative sales for the first four months of 1947 were 10 per cent lower than those in the corresponding period of 1946.

Wholesale grocers' stocks on hand at the end of April this year were 36 per cent higher in value than those held at the same date last year and 1 per cent below the end of March. This drop from March, however, was less than the normal seasonal drop between these two months. Inventories at the beginning of April are normally 35 per cent in excess of sales during that month. Stocks at the beginning of April this year were 22 per cent in excess of sales which, while still below the normal of the years 1935-1942, comes closer to a normal stock-sales ratio than in any recent month.

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Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) April, 1946	Dollar Sales (add 000) April, 1947	Per cent change April, 1947 over April, 1946	Per cent change April, 1947 over March, 1947	Per cent change Year-to-date, 1947 / Year-to-date, 1946
		$	$			
CANADA	76	22,755	26,721	+17.4	+ 3.3	+15.7
Maritime Provinces ..	16	3,085	3,902	+26.5	+ 9.4	+14.3
Quebec	19	3,043	3,411	+12.1	+ 3.1	+11.5
Ontario	22	7,109	8,592	+20.9	+10.0	+17.2
Prairie Provinces ...	13	6,298	6,888	+ 9.4	- 6.4	+15.0
British Columbia	6	3,220	3,928	+22.0	- 0.5	+20.0

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) April, 1946	Dollar Sales (add 000) April, 1947	Per cent change April, 1947 over April, 1946	Per cent change April, 1947 over March, 1947	Per cent change Year-to-date, 1947 / Year-to-date, 1946
		$	$			
CANADA	48	11,163	9,990	-10.5	+ 9.9	- 9.5
Maritimes and Quebec	18	2,700	2,377	-12.0	+ 9.3	- 8.0
Ontario	17	4,281	3,903	- 8.8	+14.0	-11.9
Western Provinces ..	13	4,182	3,710	-11.3	+22.8	- 7.4

Retail Trade

Chain Stores - April, 1947 sales of 880 chain store units operated by 28 chain companies in the food retailing field were 19 per cent higher than sales of 889 stores operated by the same 28 firms in April, 1946. Average sales per store in April, 1947 were $22,814, 21 per cent above the $18,910 average for the same month of the previous year.

Eastern Canada showed much higher gains in chain food store sales in April of this year compared with last, than the western regions. Quebec led with an increase of 29 per cent, followed by a 25 per cent advance in the Maritime Provinces, both surpassing the 19 per cent average gain for the country as a whole. Ontario recorded an advance of 18 per cent, the Prairie Provinces, 14 per cent and British Columbia, 13 per cent.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for April, 1946 and 1947

	April, 1946		April, 1947		% Change In Sales April, 1947 / April, 1946
	No. of Stores	Sales	No. of Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	889	16,810,700	880	20,076,300	+19.4
Maritime Provinces	32	458,800	32	572,400	+24.8
Quebec	164	3,510,600	164	4,535,400	+29.2
Ontario	494	9,118,700	487	10,750,900	+17.9
Prairie Provinces	105	2,041,500	103	2,323,100	+13.8
British Columbia .	94	1,681,100	94	1,894,500	+12.7

Independent Stores - Independent food stores did 7 per cent more business in April, 1947 than in the same month of 1946. Sales in Saskatchewan were practically unchanged from April of last year, while all other regions showed gains, ranging from 3 per cent in the Maritime Provinces to 10 per cent in Quebec.

Comparison of Sales Reported for April, 1946 and 1947

	No. of Stores Reporting	No. Reporting An Increase	% Change in Sales April, 1947 / April, 1946
CANADA	1,173	754	+ 7.2
Maritime Provinces	176	85	+ 3.2
Quebec	273	192	+10.0
Ontario	366	247	+ 8.0
Manitoba	82	55	+ 7.0
Saskatchewan	67	40	+ 0.2
Alberta	100	59	+ 5.3
British Columbia .	109	76	+ 8.1

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, MAY, 1947

Indexes reflecting current trends in food distribution in Canada have been published for some years, indexes of retail grocery and wholesale grocery and fruits and vegetables sales forming components of the two regular monthly bulletins on retail and wholesale trade issued by the Merchandising and Services Statistics of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This series brings together in one report the information on retail grocery and wholesale grocery and fruit and vegetable sales contained in the other bulletins thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution.

Wholesale Trade

Wholesale grocers' sales in May, 1947 were 5 per cent higher in dollar volume than in May, 1946 and 3 per cent above April, 1947 according to statements received from 73 of the larger wholesalers across Canada. Sales in Quebec province increased 12 per cent over May, 1946 and in Ontario, 7 per cent. British Columbia and the Maritimes had sales 4 and 3 per cent higher respectively than in the same month a year ago, while the dollar volume in the Prairie Provinces remained practically unchanged. Cumulative sales for the first five months of 1947 were 13 per cent higher than in the corresponding period of 1946.

The dollar sales volume of wholesalers in the fruit and vegetable trade in May was 3 per cent below the May, 1946 volume but 27 per cent higher than in April, 1947. These results are based on statements received from 47 of the larger wholesale dealers across Canada. The different regions, however, showed varying trends. In the Maritimes and Quebec, fruit and vegetable wholesalers' sales were 6 per cent higher than in May a year ago. Decreases of 4 and 6 per cent in Ontario and the Western Provinces, however, more than offset this gain. The dollar volume of sales for the year to date was 8 per cent in excess of that for the corresponding period of 1946.

Stocks held by wholesale grocers at the end of May, 1947 were valued 38 per cent higher than stocks on hand at the end of May, 1946, but dropped 4 per cent from April, 1947. Inventories at the beginning of May are normally 26 per cent in excess of sales in that month. Stocks at the beginning of May this year were 14 per cent in excess of sales.

Year's Subscription, $1.00
Single Copies, .10

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change		
		May, 1946	May, 1947	May, 1947 over May, 1946	May, 1947 over April, 1947	Year-to-date, 1947 / Year-to-date, 1946
		$	$			
CANADA	73	25,523	26,823	+ 5.1	+ 2.9	+13.3
Maritime Provinces ..	14	3,302	3,406	+ 3.2	- 5.5	+11.8
Quebec	20	3,589	4,035	+12.4	+18.6	+11.4
Ontario	22	8,286	8,888	+ 7.3	+ 4.4	+14.9
Prairie Provinces ...	11	6,635	6,623	- 0.2	+ 6.2	+11.5
British Columbia	6	3,711	3,871	+ 4.3	- 4.8	+16.5

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change		
		May, 1946	May, 1947	May, 1947 over May, 1946	May, 1947 over April, 1947	Year-to-date, 1947 / Year-to-date, 1946
		$	$			
CANADA	47	11,701	11,360	- 2.9	+27.2	- 7.9
Maritimes and Quebec	16	2,262	2,386	+ 5.5	+18.6	- 4.9
Ontario	18	4,850	4,657	- 4.0	+11.8	-10.3
Western Provinces ..	13	4,589	4,317	- 5.9	+16.4	- 7.1

Retail Trade

Chain Stores - May, 1947 sales of 880 chain store units operated by 27 chain companies in the food retailing field were 31 per cent higher than sales of 889 stores operated by the same 27 firms in May, 1946. Average sales per store in May, 1947 were $26,160, 33 per cent above the $19,710 average for the same month of the previous year.

The largest gain in chain food store sales occurred in Quebec province. Sales for the month of May, 1947 were 40 per cent higher than in the same month of last year. This gain was closely followed by increases of 37 per cent in the Maritime Provinces, and 35 per cent in Ontario. Considerably smaller, and yet fairly substantial, were gains recorded in the west, the Prairie Provinces showing an advance of 18 per cent and British Columbia, 12 per cent.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for May, 1946 and 1947

	May, 1946		May, 1947		% Change In Sales May, 1947 May, 1946
	No. of Stores	Sales	No. of Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	889	17,522,400	880	23,020,400	+31.4
Maritime Provinces	32	481,700	32	659,100	+36.8
Quebec	164	3,684,100	164	5,145,000	+39.7
Ontario	496	9,320,800	490	12,560,100	+34.8
Prairie Provinces	103	2,221,000	101	2,630,200	+18.4
British Columbia .	94	1,814,800	93	2,026,000	+11.6

Independent Stores - Independent food stores did 11 per cent more business in May of this year than last. Very uniform gains were reported in all regions of the country ranging from 6 per cent in the Maritime Provinces to 13 per cent in Quebec and British Columbia.

Comparison of Sales Reported for May, 1946 and 1947

	No. of Stores Reporting	No. Reporting An Increase	% Change in Sales May, 1947 May, 1946
CANADA	1,164	843	+10.8
Maritime Provinces ...	164	92	+ 6.4
Quebec	265	202	+12.6
Ontario	368	280	+12.1
Manitoba	90	65	+ 8.3
Saskatchewan	66	44	+ 7.8
Alberta	95	67	+ 9.4
British Columbia	116	93	+12.7

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, JUNE, 1947

Indexes reflecting current trends in food distribution in Canada have been published for some years, indexes of retail grocery and wholesale grocery and fruits and vegetables sales forming components of the two regular monthly bulletins on retail and wholesale trade issued by the Merchandising and Services Statistics of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This series brings together in one report the information on retail grocery and wholesale grocery and fruit and vegetable sales contained in the other bulletins thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution.

Wholesale Trade

The dollar volume of wholesale grocers' sales in June, 1947 was 18 per cent higher than in June, 1946 and 5 per cent above May, 1947 according to statements received from 73 of the larger wholesalers across Canada. Sales in British Columbia were up 28 per cent from June last year and in Quebec, 27 per cent. Wholesalers in Ontario reported a gain of 19 per cent, while the Prairies and Maritimes followed with increases of 12 and 10 per cent respectively. Cumulative sales for the first half of 1947 were 14 per cent higher in dollar volume than for the corresponding period of 1946. In the year-to-date comparison, British Columbia showed a gain of 19 per cent over the first six months of 1946; Ontario sales were up 16 per cent; Quebec, 13 per cent; and the Maritime and Prairie Provinces, 12 per cent.

Sales of wholesalers of fruits and vegetables continued below the 1946 dollar volume in June when they dropped 5 per cent from June, 1946 and 4 per cent below May, 1947. These figures are based on statements received from 47 of the larger wholesalers across Canada. Ontario dealers reported practically no change in dollar volume of sales in June this year compared with last. Wholesale sales of fruits and vegetables in the Maritimes and Quebec combined were 3 per cent below June, 1946, while a drop of 9 per cent was recorded for the Western Provinces. Sales for the year-to-date were 7 per cent below those for the first half of 1946.

Stocks in the hands of wholesale grocers at the end of June, 1947 were 38 per cent higher in value than at the end of June last year and were 2 per cent less than at the end of May, 1947. Inventories at the beginning of June are normally 20 per cent in excess of sales during that month. Stocks at the beginning of June this year were only 4 per cent in excess of sales.

Year's Subscription, $1.00
Single Copies, .10

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) June, 1946	Dollar Sales (add 000) June, 1947	Per cent change June, 1947 over June, 1946	Per cent change June, 1947 over May, 1947	Per cent change Year-to-date, 1947 over Year-to-date, 1946
		$	$			
CANADA.....	73	23,538	27,815	+18.2	+ 5.0	+14.1
Maritime Provinces..	14	2,835	3,122	+10.1	+ 1.7	+11.6
Quebec.....	19	2,914	3,686	+26.5	- 2.7	+13.1
Ontario.....	21	7,572	9,035	+19.3	+ 1.6	+15.6
Prairie Provinces...	13	6,756	7,552	+11.8	+ 4.5	+11.7
British Columbia....	6	3,461	4,420	+27.7	+21.8	+18.5

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) June, 1946	Dollar Sales (add 000) June, 1947	Per cent change June, 1947 over June, 1946	Per cent change June, 1947 over May, 1947	Per cent change Year-to-date, 1947 over Year-to-date, 1946
		$	$			
CANADA.....	47	12,473	11,904	- 4.6	- 4.2	- 7.3
Maritimes and Quebec	15	2,639	2,548	- 3.4	+ 1.3	- 4.6
Ontario.....	18	4,642	4,638	- 0.1	- 7.6	- 8.5
Western Provinces...	14	5,192	4,718	- 9.1	+ 1.0	- 7.5

Retail Trade

Chain Stores - June, 1947 sales of 928 chain store units operated by 30 chain companies in the food retailing field were 15 per cent higher than sales of 932 stores operated by the same 30 firms in June, 1946. Average sales per store in June, 1947 were $23,350, 16 per cent above the $20,143 average for the same month of the previous year.

The largest gain in chain food store sales occurred in Quebec. Increases of 24 per cent in that province and 17 per cent in Ontario were the only two surpassing the average gain. The Maritime Provinces recorded an advance of 13 per cent, while the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia each experienced a smaller gain of 5 per cent.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for June, 1946 and 1947

	June, 1946		June, 1947		% Change In Sales June, 1947 / June, 1946
	No. of Stores	Sales	No. of Stores	Sales	
CANADA.....	932	18,773,400	928	21,668,800	+15.4
Maritime Provinces	45	642,600	44	724,100	+12.7
Quebec.....	164	3,777,600	163	4,692,000	+24.2
Ontario.....	492	9,866,600	489	11,542,300	+17.0
Prairie Provinces.	138	2,581,700	137	2,702,500	+ 4.7
British Columbia..	93	1,904,900	95	2,007,900	+ 5.4

Independent Stores - Independent food stores did 2 per cent more business in June this year than last. Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia all recorded increases within a range of 3 to 5 per cent. Minor decreases of 2 per cent were shown in both the Maritime Provinces and Alberta, while Saskatchewan recorded a decline of 3 per cent.

Comparison of Sales Reported for June, 1946 and 1947

	No. of Stores Reporting	No. Reporting An Increase	% Change in Sales June, 1947 / June, 1946
CANADA.....	1,143	565	+2.1
Maritime Provinces.....	163	57	-2.4
Quebec.....	264	145	+4.8
Ontario.....	368	199	+3.4
Manitoba.....	82	41	+3.6
Saskatchewan.....	61	22	-3.0
Alberta.....	94	40	-2.4
British Columbia.....	111	61	+2.8

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, JULY, 1947

Indexes reflecting current trends in food distribution in Canada have been published for some years, indexes of retail grocery and wholesale grocery and fruits and vegetables sales forming components of the two regular monthly bulletins on retail and wholesale trade issued by the Merchandising and Services Statistics of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This series brings together in one report the information on retail grocery and wholesale grocery and fruit and vegetable sales contained in the other bulletins thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution.

Wholesale Trade

Dollar volume of sales by wholesale grocers for July, 1947 was 18 per cent higher than for July, 1946 and 8 per cent above that for June, 1947. These figures are based on statements received from the larger wholesale houses across Canada. Due to delay in receipt of returns from Ontario, it has not been possible to publish reliable results for that province. It has also been necessary to withhold the dollar volume for Canada as a whole until a more complete coverage is obtained. Sales for the other regions registered the following increases over July, 1946: British Columbia, 27 per cent; Quebec, 22 per cent; Prairie Provinces, 17 per cent; and Maritime Provinces, 11 per cent. Cumulative sales for the first seven months of 1947 were 15 per cent higher than for the corresponding period of 1946.

Sales of wholesalers of fruits and vegetables in July, 1947 were 3 per cent below July, 1946 and 1 per cent higher than in June, 1947. Dollar volume of sales of fruits and vegetables in Ontario declined less than 1 per cent from last year, while there was a drop of 3 per cent in the Western Provinces and of 8 per cent in the Maritime Provinces and Quebec, combined. Wholesale sales of fruits and vegetables for the year to date were 6.5 per cent below the sales volume for the corresponding seven months of 1946.

Wholesale grocers' inventories were valued 31 per cent higher at the end of July this year compared with July 31, 1946 and were 4 per cent higher in value than at the end of June, 1947. Inventories at the beginning of July are normally 7 per cent in excess of sales during that month. Stocks in the hands of wholesale grocers at the beginning of July this year were valued 9 per cent below the sales volume for that month.

Year's Subscription, $1.00
Single Copies, .10

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) July, 1946	Dollar Sales (add 000) July, 1947	Per cent change July, 1947 over July, 1946	Per cent change July, 1947 over June, 1947	Per cent change Year-to-date, 1947 Year-to-date, 1946
		$	$			
CANADA.....	(1)	(1)	(1)	+17.5	+ 7.9	+14.6
Maritime Provinces.	15	3,775	4,182	+10.8	+14.8	+11.2
Quebec.....	18	2,942	3,583	+21.8	+12.8	+15.0
Ontario.....	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Prairie Provinces..	13	7,161	8,355	+16.7	+14.5	+12.5
British Columbia...	6	3,349	4,242	+26.6	- 5.0	+19.7

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) July, 1946	Dollar Sales (add 000) July, 1947	Per cent change July, 1947 over July, 1946	Per cent change July, 1947 over June, 1947	Per cent change Year-to-date, 1947 Year-to-date, 1946
		$	$			
CANADA.....	(1)	(1)	(1)	- 3.3	+ 0.8	- 6.5
Maritimes and Quebec	15	2,749	2,532	- 7.9	-30.2	- 9.4
Ontario.....	(1)	(1)	(1)	- 0.4	+ 8.2	- 7.3
Western Provinces...	12	5,735	5,572	- 2.8	+17.5	- 6.6

(1) Dollar volume not yet available due to insufficient coverage. Percentage changes based on below normal sample.

(2) Not yet available.

Retail Trade

Chain Stores - July, 1947 sales of 883 chain store units operated by 26 chain companies in the foot retailing field were 25 per cent higher than sales of 883 stores operated by the same 26 firms in July, 1946. Average sales per store in July, 1947 were $24,639, 25 per cent above the $19,651 average for the same month of the previous year.

Quebec experienced the largest gain in chain food store sales. An increase of 29 per cent in that province was closely followed by an advance of 28 per cent in Ontario. Gains ranging from 17 to 19 per cent occurred in the Maritime Provinces, Prairie Provinces and British Columbia.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for July, 1946 and 1947

	July, 1946		July, 1947		% Change In Sales July, 1947 July, 1946
	No. of Stores	Sales	No. of Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA.....	885	17,391,100	883	21,756,600	+25.1
Maritime Provinces.	43	648,700	44	771,200	+18.9
Quebec.....	164	3,625,500	164	4,661,800	+28.6
Ontario.....	479	9,265,100	477	11,814,200	+27.5
Prairie Provinces..	105	2,199,400	103	2,565,100	+16.6
British Columbia...	94	1,652,400	95	1,944,300	+17.7

Independent Stores - Independent food stores did 6 per cent more business in July this year than last. Sales in the Maritime Provinces and Saskatchewan were practically unchanged from last year, while all other regions reported gains which were close to the average increase for the country as a whole.

Comparison of Sales Reported for July, 1946 and 1947

	No. of Stores Reporting	No. Reporting An Increase	% Change in Sales July, 1947 July, 1946
CANADA.....	1,142	705	+6.0
Maritime Provinces.....	168	81	+0.6
Quebec.....	257	178	+8.0
Ontario.....	352	234	+7.8
Manitoba.....	88	47	+4.8
Saskatchewan.....	69	36	+0.9
Alberta.....	101	62	+5.8
British Columbia.....	107	67	+7.2

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DEPT. OF

CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION

AUGUST, 1947

Indexes reflecting current trends in food distribution in Canada have been published for some years. Indexes of retail grocery and wholesale grocery and fruits and vegetables sales forming components of the two regular monthly bulletins on retail and wholesale trade issued by the Merchandising and Services Statistics of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This series brings together in one report the information on retail grocery and wholesale grocery and fruit and vegetable sales contained in the other bulletins thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution.

Wholesale Trade

Dollar sales volume of wholesale grocers in August, 1947 was 10 per cent higher than in August 1946 and 6 per cent below the July 1947 volume, according to statements received from 77 of the larger wholesale firms across Canada. Greater than average increases were reported in the west; grocery wholesalers' sales in the Prairie Provinces were up 16 per cent and in British Columbia, 20 per cent. Lesser gains of 6, 5 and 4 per cent were registered in the Maritime Provinces, Ontario and Quebec respectively. Cumulative sales for the first eight months of 1947 were 14 per cent in dollar volume above those for the corresponding period of 1946.

Wholesalers of fruits and vegetables continued to record sales at a lower dollar volume than that for 1946 when dollar sales, particularly in the Western Provinces, reached an exceptionally high level. August sales of fruits and vegetable wholesalers across Canada averaged 7 per cent lower than August, 1946. Ontario sales, however, were practically on a level with last year, while sales in the Maritimes and Quebec were down 4 per cent and in the Western Provinces were 13 per cent below those for August, 1946. August sales for Canada as a whole were 1 per cent below July, but again wide variations were found in the different regions. Sales for the year 1947 from January to August were 7 per cent lower than those in the first eight months of 1946.

Wholesale grocery stocks at the end of August, 1947 were valued 30 per cent higher than at August 31, 1946 but were 4 per cent lower than at July 30, 1947. Inventories at the beginning of August are normally 11 per cent in excess of the volume of sales transacted in that month. Stocks on hand at the beginning of August, 1947 were one per cent in excess of sales in that month, a ratio closer to the normal situation than has been experienced in many months.

Year's Subscription, $1.00
Single Copies, .10

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) August, 1946	Dollar Sales (add 000) August, 1947	Per cent change August, 1947 over August, 1946	Per cent change August, 1947 over July, 1947	Per cent change Year-to-date, 1947 over Year-to-date, 1946
		$	$			
CANADA	77	26,976	29,595	+ 9.7	- 6.0	+14.2
Maritime Provinces	15	3,553	3,753	+ 5.6	-11.6	+10.5
Quebec	22	4,305	4,479	+ 4.0	-12.6	+13.3
Ontario	22	8,552	8,993	+ 5.1	- 7.6	+14.8
Prairie Provinces	12	7,104	8,228	+15.8	+ 0.4	+13.0
British Columbia	6	3,462	4,142	+19.6	- 2.8	+19.7

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) August, 1946	Dollar Sales (add 000) August, 1947	Per cent change August, 1947 over August, 1946	Per cent change August, 1947 over July, 1947	Per cent change Year-to-date, 1947 over Year-to-date, 1946
		$	$			
CANADA	50	12,922	12,044	- 6.8	- 0.9	- 7.0
Maritimes and Quebec	18	2,626	2,518	- 4.1	-22.8	- 4.4
Ontario	19	4,208	4,202	- 0.2	-14.8	- 6.6
Western Provinces	13	6,088	5,324	-12.5	+ 2.6	- 7.7

Retail Trade

Chain Stores - August, 1947 sales of 902 chain store units operated by 29 chain companies in the food retailing field were 24 per cent higher than sales of 903 stores operated by the same 29 firms in August, 1946. Average sales per store in August, 1947 were $26,055, 24 per cent above the $21,035 average for the same month of the previous year.

Quebec province recorded the largest gain in chain food store sales. An increase of 34 per cent in that region was the only one to surpass the Dominion average of 24 per cent. The Maritime Provinces, Ontario and British Columbia each experienced a gain of 22 per cent, while the Prairie Provinces followed with a smaller one of 16 per cent.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for August, 1946 and 1947

	August, 1946		August, 1947		% Change In Sales August, 1947 August, 1946
	No. of Stores	Sales	No. of Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	903	18,994,900	902	23,501,600	+23.7
Maritime Provinces	43	700,200	44	852,100	+21.7
Quebec	164	3,703,800	164	4,970,200	+34.2
Ontario	498	10,277,500	495	12,575,000	+22.4
Prairie Provinces	105	2,487,600	104	2,881,700	+15.8
British Columbia	93	1,825,800	95	2,222,600	+21.7

Independent Stores - Independent food stores did 1 per cent more business in August this year than last. The Maritime Provinces reported a decline of 2 per cent while all other regions showed gains ranging from 1 to 3 per cent.

Comparison of Sales Reported for August, 1946 and 1947

	No. of Stores Reporting	No. Reporting An Increase	% Change in Sales August, 1947 August, 1946
CANADA	1,153	551	+ 1.3
Maritime Provinces	162	66	- 1.5
Quebec	273	141	+ 2.8
Ontario	369	170	+ 0.9
Manitoba	79	38	+ 3.4
Saskatchewan	62	29	+ 1.3
Alberta	100	45	+ 0.7
British Columbia	108	62	+ 2.2

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION

SEPTEMBER, 1947

This bulletin brings together the information on retail grocery and wholesale grocery and fruit and vegetable sales contained in other monthly bulletins on the retail and wholesale trade thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution.

WHOLESALE TRADE

Grocers' Sales - Sales of wholesale grocers in September 1947 advanced 23% from September 1946 and were 11% above August 1947 according to reports submitted by 74 of the larger wholesalers across Canada. Grocers in British Columbia recorded the largest increase over September a year ago at 30%. Sales in Quebec were up 26% and in the Prairie Provinces, 25%. Wholesalers in the Maritimes and Ontario reported sales 22% and 17% respectively, above last year. Cumulative sales for the first 9 months of 1947 were 15% higher than in the corresponding period of last year.

Fruit and Vegetable Dealers' Sales - Wholesale dealers in fruits and vegetables registered an increase in sales of 1% over September last year but were 6% below August 1947. These figures are based on statements received from 48 wholesale dealers across Canada. Ontario dealers recorded a gain of 9% over September 1946 while sales in the Maritimes and Quebec combined increased 4%. A drop of 4% was registered in the Western Provinces. Cumulative sales for the first 9 months of 1947 were 6% below the volume in the corresponding period of 1946.

Grocers' Stocks - Stocks in the hands of wholesale grocers at the end of September 1947 were valued 22% higher than at the same date last year and 3% higher than at August 31 of this year. Inventories at the beginning of September are normally 10% in excess of sales during that month. Stocks on hand at the beginning of September this year were valued 13% lower than sales in that month.

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Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) September, 1946	Dollar Sales (add 000) September, 1947	Per cent change Sept., 1947 over Sept., 1946	Per cent change Sept., 1947 over August, 1947	Per cent change Jan.-to Sept., 1947 over Jan.-to Sept., 1946
		$	$			
CANADA	74	26,172	32,181	+23.0	+11.4	+15.2
Maritime Provinces	16	3,605	4,384	+21.6	+10.9	+11.8
Quebec	19	3,609	4,548	+26.0	+27.1	+15.0
Ontario	21	8,441	9,905	+17.3	+ 7.8	+15.1
Prairie Provinces	12	6,884	8,632	+25.4	+ 6.2	+14.4
British Columbia	6	3,633	4,712	+29.7	+20.2	+21.0

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) September, 1946	Dollar Sales (add 000) September, 1947	Per cent change Sept., 1947 over Sept., 1946	Per cent change Sept., 1947 over August, 1947	Per cent change Jan.-to Sept., 1947 over Jan.-to Sept., 1946
		$	$			
CANADA	48	10,788	10,935	+ 1.4	- 5.8	- 5.7
Maritimes and Quebec	15	1,903	1,974	+ 3.7	- 2.9	- 3.4
Ontario	19	3,388	3,700	+ 9.2	-11.9	- 5.1
Western Provinces	14	5,497	5,261	- 4.3	- 2.0	- 7.3

Retail Trade

Chain Stores - September, 1947 sales of 886 chain store units operated by 28 chain companies in the food retailing field were 43 per cent higher than sales of 891 stores operated by the same 28 firms in September, 1946. Average sales per store in September, 1947 were 26,140, 44 per cent above the $18,196 average for the same month of the previous year.

Quebec and Ontario led in chain food store sales with increases of 47 and 46 per cent respectively. British Columbia and the Maritime Provinces each recorded a gain of approximately 38 per cent, while in the Prairie Provinces sales advanced 29 per cent. The result for the country as a whole was 43 per cent higher than last year.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for September, 1946 and 1947

	September, 1946		September, 1947		% Change In Sales September, 1947 September, 1946
	No. of Stores	Sales $	No. of Stores	Sales $	
CANADA	891	16,212,900	886	23,159,900	+42.8
Maritime Provinces	44	607,400	45	840,300	+38.3
Quebec	165	3,463,700	164	5,100,200	+47.3
Ontario	486	8,443,100	479	12,297,500	+45.7
Prairie Provinces	104	2,116,900	103	2,728,600	+28.9
British Columbia	92	1,581,800	95	2,193,300	+38.7

Independent Stores - Independent food stores did 12 per cent more business in September this year than last. Larger increases occurred in Ontario and the western provinces than in the east. Gains ranging from 11 to 16 per cent were recorded in central and western Canada, while Quebec registered a smaller advance of 9 per cent and the Maritime Provinces 7 per cent.

Comparison of Sales Reported for September, 1946 and 1947

	No. of Stores Reporting	No. Reporting An Increase	% Change in Sales September, 1947 September, 1946
CANADA	1,158	809	+11.5
Maritime Provinces	166	93	+ 6.6
Quebec	270	186	+ 9.3
Ontario	366	285	+15.7
Manitoba	84	53	+10.7
Saskatchewan	66	50	+11.2
Alberta	99	71	+11.6
British Columbia	107	71	+11.8

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION

DEPT. OF
POLITICAL ECONOMY

OCTOBER, 1947

This bulletin brings together the information on retail grocery and wholesale grocery and fruit and vegetable sales contained in other monthly bulletins on the retail and wholesale trade thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution.

WHOLESALE TRADE

Grocers' Sales

Wholesale grocers' sales in October, 1947 were 29% in excess of the dollar volume of October a year ago and 16% higher than in September, according to statements submitted by 72 of the larger wholesale firms across Canada. Cumulative sales for the first ten months were 17% higher in dollar volume than in the corresponding period of 1946.

Ontario and British Columbia registered the largest increases over last year at 38% and 39%. Sales in the Maritime Provinces were up 27%, in Quebec, 19%, and in the Prairie Provinces, 18%.

Fruit and Vegetable Dealers' Sales

After recording a slight increase over 1946 in September, sales of fruit and vegetable wholesalers in October again dropped below the 1946 level by 4% and were 1% below the dollar volume for September. These figures are based on returns from 49 of the larger dealers across Canada. Cumulative sales for the first 10 months of 1947 were 6% below the dollar sales in the corresponding period of 1946.

A decline of 2% was registered in the Maritime Provinces and Quebec combined, while sales in the Western Provinces dropped 10%. Ontario sales showed a slight increase of 1%.

Grocers' Inventories

Stocks on hand at the end of October, 1947 showed an increase of 18% in value of inventory over the same date last year and an increase of 10% over September 30 this year. Inventories at the beginning of October are normally 17% in excess of sales during that month while at the beginning of October this year, stocks on hand were valued 25% below the value of sales in October.

Year's Subscription, $1.00
Single Copies, .10

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) October, 1946	Dollar Sales (add 000) October, 1947	Per cent change Oct., 1947 over Oct. 1946	Per cent change Oct., 1947 over Sept. 1947	Per cent change Jan.-to-Oct., 1947 over Jan.-to-Oct., 1946
		$	$			
CANADA	72	28,295	36,441	+28.8	+16.3	+16.9
Maritime Provinces	15	3,846	4,894	+27.2	+20.1	+13.6
Quebec	18	3,703	4,388	+18.5	+14.3	+15.4
Ontario	22	9,288	12,834	+38.2	+29.9	+17.8
Prairie Provinces	11	7,665	9,049	+18.1	+ 3.0	+15.0
British Columbia	6	3,793	5,276	+39.1	+10.8	+23.1

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) October, 1946	Dollar Sales (add 000) October, 1947	Per cent change Oct., 1947 over Oct., 1946	Per cent change Oct., 1947 over Sept. 1947	Per cent change Jan.-to-Oct., 1947 over Jan.-to-Oct., 1946
		$	$			
CANADA	49	11,224	10,756	- 4.2	- 1.3	- 5.6
Maritimes and Quebec	18	2,480	2,431	- 2.0	+ 5.6	- 3.6
Ontario	17	3,847	3,892	+ 1.2	- 0.9	- 4.6
Western Provinces	14	4,897	4,433	- 9.5	- 9.5	- 7.5

Retail Trade

Chain Stores - October, 1947 sales of 882 chain store units operated by 26 chain companies in the food retailing field were 43% higher than sales of 884 stores operated by the same 26 firms in October, 1946. Average sales per store in October, 1947 were $28,521, 44 per cent above the $19,858 average for the same month of the previous year.

Quebec and Ontario led in chain food store sales with increases of 46%. The Maritime Provinces and British Columbia followed with gains of 41 and 40% respectively, while the Prairie Provinces recorded an advance of 29%. Chain store sales in Canada were 43% higher than in October last year.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for October, 1946 and 1947

	October, 1946		October, 1947		% Change In Sales October, 1947 / October, 1946
	No. of Stores	Sales	No. of Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	884	17,554,700	882	25,155,300	+43.3
Maritime Provinces ..	44	608,900	45	859,700	+41.2
Quebec	165	3,883,300	164	5,682,300	+46.3
Ontario	484	9,256,200	480	13,530,400	+46.2
Prairie Provinces ...	98	2,131,500	97	2,739,800	+28.5
British Columbia	93	1,674,800	96	2,343,100	+39.9

Independent Stores - Independent stores did 11% more business in October this year than last. Quebec province showed the largest gain of 14%. The Maritime Provinces and Manitoba recorded smaller increases of 7 and 6% respectively, while all other regions remained close to the Dominion average.

Comparison of Sales Reported for October, 1946 and 1947

	No. of Stores Reporting	No. Reporting An Increase	% Change in Sales October, 1947 / October, 1946
CANADA	1,161	778	+11.4
Maritime Provinces ..	174	102	+ 7.4
Quebec	275	203	+13.6
Ontario	366	256	+12.4
Manitoba	81	45	+ 6.4
Saskatchewan	62	43	+10.9
Alberta	98	61	+10.5
British Columbia	105	68	+12.0

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DEPT. OF
POLITICAL ECONOMY

CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION

NOVEMBER, 1947

This bulletin brings together the information on retail grocery and wholesale grocery and fruit and vegetable sales contained in other monthly bulletins on the retail and wholesale trade thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution.

WHOLESALE TRADE

Grocers' Sales

November sales of 74 of the larger grocery wholesalers across Canada were 23% higher than in November, 1946, bringing the cumulative sales for the 11 months of 1947 to a level 18% in excess of that for the corresponding period of 1946. Compared with October, 1947, dollar volume of grocers' sales showed a drop of 10%.

British Columbia and Ontario continued to record the largest gains over 1946 at 33% and 27% respectively. Cumulative sales for 11 months of 1947 for British Columbia and Ontario were 24% and 19% higher than in the corresponding period of 1946. Increases recorded for the other regions, with the 11-month cumulative per cent change in brackets, are as follows: Quebec, 21% (16%); Prairies, 18% (15%); Maritimes, 17% (14%).

Fruit and Vegetable Dealers' Sales

Dollar sales of fruits and vegetables in Canada were 1% higher than in November a year ago according to statements submitted by 49 of the larger dealers in the country. There was a drop from October of 4%, while cumulative sales for the 11 months of 1947 were 5% below those for the corresponding period of 1946.

A substantial gain over November, 1946, of 18% was recorded by wholesalers in the Maritimes and Quebec combined. Ontario sales were up 2% while in the Western Provinces, sales continued below the 1946 level by 10%.

Grocers' Inventories

Stocks on hand at the end of November, 1947 showed an increase in value of 20% compared with the same date a year ago and were 11% higher in value than at the end of October, 1947. Stocks on hand at the beginning of November are normally 43% in excess of sales in that month. Inventories at the beginning of November this year were valued 7% below November sales.

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Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) November 1946	Dollar Sales (add 000) November 1947	Per cent change Nov., 1947 over Nov. 1946	Per cent change Nov., 1947 over Oct. 1947	Per cent change Jan.-to-Nov., 1947 Jan.-to-Nov., 1946
		$	$			
CANADA.....	74	27,687	34,167	+23.4	-10.4	+17.5
Maritime Provinces	14	3,559	4,171	+17.2	-10.9	+14.0
Quebec	20	3,839	4,658	+21.3	- 8.0	+16.0
Ontario	21	8,815	11,234	+27.4	-14.1	+18.8
Prairie Provinces .	13	7,833	9,274	+18.4	- 6.7	+15.3
British Columbia ..	6	3,641	4,830	+32.6	- 8.2	+24.1

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) November 1946	Dollar Sales (add 000) November 1947	Per cent change Nov., 1947 over Nov. 1946	Per cent change Nov., 1947 over Oct. 1947	Per cent change Jan.-to-Nov., 1947 Jan.-to-Nov., 1946
		$	$			
CANADA	49	9,611	9,698	+ 0.9	- 4.2	- 5.0
Maritimes and Quebec.	18	2,223	2,619	+17.8	+24.0	- 1.8
Ontario	18	3,500	3,575	+ 2.1	- 0.4	- 4.1
Western Provinces ...	13	3,888	3,504	- 9.9	-15.5	- 7.5

Retail Trade

Chain Stores - November, 1947 sales of 875 chain store units operated by 28 chain companies in the food retailing field were 43% higher than sales of 874 stores operated by the same 28 firms in November, 1946. Average sales per store in November, 1947 were 28,760, 43 per cent above the $20,122 average for the same month of the previous year.

The largest increases in chain food store sales occurred in Ontario and British Columbia. Gains of 47% in each of these regions surpassed the 43% advance for the country as a whole. The Maritime Provinces recorded a gain of 40%; Quebec, 37%; and the Prairie Provinces, 32% over November last year.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for November, 1946 and 1947

	November, 1946		November, 1947		% Change, In Sales November, 1947 / November, 1946
	No. of Stores	Sales	No. of Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	874	17,587,000	875	25,164,900	+43.1
Maritime Provinces ..	43	633,800	45	889,400	+40.3
Quebec	141	2,704,500	140	3,693,200	+36.6
Ontario	490	10,248,600	488	15,051,000	+46.9
Prairie Provinces ...	104	2,230,400	103	2,936,400	+31.7
British Columbia	96	1,769,700	99	2,594,900	+46.6

Independent Stores - Independent stores did 6% more business in November, 1947 than in the same month of last year. In this field also Ontario and British Columbia led with gains of 8% and 9% respectively. All other provinces showed uniform increases ranging from 2% to 5%.

Comparison of Sales Reported for November, 1946 and 1947

	No. of Stores Reporting	No. Reporting An Increase	% Change in Sales November, 1947 / November, 1946
CANADA	1,155	649	+ 5.6
Maritime Provinces ..	162	72	+ 2.3
Quebec	273	147	+ 4.2
Ontario	359	222	+ 8.0
Manitoba	82	44	+ 5.2
Saskatchewan	63	31	+ 2.3
Alberta	102	53	+ 3.2
British Columbia	114	80	+ 9.4

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION

DEPT. OF
POLITICAL ECONOMY

DECEMBER, 1947

This bulletin brings together the information on retail grocery and wholesale grocery and fruit and vegetable sales contained in other monthly bulletins on the retail and wholesale trade thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution.

WHOLESALE TRADE

Wholesale Grocers' Sales

Dollar volume of sales in the wholesale grocery trade in December, 1947 exceeded that of December a year ago by 14% and was 19% below November, 1947 according to statements submitted by 76 of the larger firms across Canada. Sales for the twelve months of 1947 were 17% higher than for the year 1946.

Greatest gains were recorded in Ontario and Quebec where sales were 18% and 17% respectively higher than in December a year ago. British Columbia dropped to third place with an increase of 14% while sales in the Maritimes were up 9% and in the Prairies, 8%. British Columbia recorded the largest increase over 1946 for the twelve-month period with sales up by 22%. Sales in Ontario in 1947 were 19% higher than during the year 1946 with those in Quebec up 16%. In the Prairies and the Maritimes, wholesale grocers' sales in 1947 were 15% and 14% respectively higher than in the previous year.

Fruit and Vegetable Dealers' Sales

Fruit and vegetable dealers' sales continued the trend which has been in evidence throughout 1947 with a drop of 12% in dollar volume of sales in December compared with December, 1946. This, however, was the largest decrease to be recorded for any month. Sales in December were 8% below November, while the cumulative sales for the 12 months of 1947 were 6% lower than 1946.

All regions recorded lower volumes in December, 1947 than in the same month a year ago. Sales of fruits and vegetables in the Western Provinces were down 15%; in Ontario, 11%; and in the Maritimes and Quebec combined, 10%. For the full year 1947, the Western Provinces also registered the largest decrease with sales 8% below the year 1946. Ontario sales were 5% lower and those in the Maritimes and Quebec combined, 3%.

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Grocers' Inventories

Wholesale grocers' inventories at the end of December, 1947 were valued 16% higher than at the end of November, 1947. Stocks on hand at the beginning of December are normally 64% in excess of sales in that month. Inventories at the beginning of December this year were valued 21% in excess of sales in that month.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change		
		December 1946	December 1947	Dec., 1947 over Dec. 1946	Dec., 1947 over Nov. 1947	12 months 1947 / 12 months 1946
		$	$			
CANADA	76	25,511	28,949	+13.5	-19.3	+17.0
Maritime Provinces	15	3,406	3,727	+ 9.4	-18.9	+13.7
Quebec	20	3,382	3,969	+17.4	-19.0	+16.0
Ontario	22	8,025	9,506	+18.4	-14.9	+18.7
Prairie Provinces.	13	6,906	7,422	+ 7.5	-29.8	+14.7
British Columbia .	6	3,792	4,325	+14.0	-11.0	+22.4

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change		
		December 1946	December 1947	Dec., 1947 over Dec., 1946	Dec., 1947 over Nov. 1947	12 months 1947 / 12 months 1946
		$	$			
CANADA	45	9,692	8,501	-12.3	- 7.7	- 5.6
Maritime and Quebec	16	2,170	1.957	- 9.8	-18.9	- 2.7
Ontario	17	3,618	3,211	-11.3	- 5.1	- 4.8
Western Provinces.	12	3,904	3,333	-14.6	- 7.8	- 8.0

Retail Trade

Chain Stores - December, 1947 sales of 933 chain store units operated by 29 chain companies in the food retailing field were 42% higher than sales of 928 stores operated by the same 29 firms in December, 1946. Average sales per store in December, 1947 were $29,594, 42% above the $20,893 average for the same month of the previous year.

Extensive gains were recorded in all sections of the country.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for December, 1946 and 1947

	December, 1946		December, 1947		% Change, In Sales December, 1947 / December, 1946
	No. of Stores	Sales	No. of Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	928	19,388,800	933	27,611,500	+42.4
Maritime Provinces ..	43	639,700	45	920,600	+43.9
Quebec	164	4,177,100	164	5,942,100	+42.3
Ontario	487	10,319,900	487	15,069,200	+46.0
Prairie Provinces ...	141	2,393,100	141	3,114,400	+30.1
British Columbia	93	1,859,000	96	2,565,200	+38.0

Independent Stores - Ontario and Quebec marked up gains which exceeded the Canada average increase. Other regions, with the exception of Saskatchewan, experienced modest increases over December, 1946.

Comparison of Sales Reported for December, 1946 and 1947

	No. of Stores Reporting	No. Reporting An Increase	% Change in Sales December, 1947 / December, 1946
CANADA	1,066	675	+ 8.0
Maritime Provinces .	156	87	+ 5.4
Quebec	248	180	+11.6
Ontario	333	223	+ 9.5
Manitoba	79	46	+ 3.4
Saskatchewan	60	27	- 0.2
Alberta	90	42	+ 3.6
British Columbia ...	100	70	+ 7.3

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POLITICAL ECONOMY

CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION

JANUARY, 1948

This bulletin brings together the information on retail grocery and wholesale grocery and fruit and vegetable sales contained in other monthly bulletins on the retail and wholesale trade, thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution.

WHOLESALE TRADE

Grocers' Sales

Sales of wholesale grocers in January, 1948 were 2% higher in dollar volume than in January a year ago but were 4% below the sales for December, 1947 according to statements submitted by 78 of the larger firms across Canada.

The only region to record a substantial increase was British Columbia where sales were 18% higher than in January, 1947. Small gains of 2% and 1% were recorded in the Prairies and in Quebec. Ontario sales were down 1% while in the Maritimes, a drop of 6% was reported. Compared with December, 1947, the eastern provinces all showed decreased sales volumes in January, 1948, while the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia registered advances of 11% and 2% respectively.

Fruit and Vegetable Dealers' Sales

The downward trend in dollar sales volume of fruits and vegetable dealers which has been in evidence for the past twelve months continued into January, 1948 when sales were 11% below January, 1947 and 20% below December, 1947. Decreases by regions were as follows: Western Provinces, 15%; Ontario, 9%; Maritimes and Quebec combined, 8%.

Grocers' Inventories

Stocks in the hands of wholesale grocers at the end of January, 1948 were valued 8% above those on hand at the end of January a year ago and 4% lower than at the end of December, 1947. Inventories at the beginning of January are normally 63% in excess of sales in that month (based on the average experience of 1935 to 1942). Stocks on hand at the beginning of January this year were 43% in excess of sales in that month.

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Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) January, 1947 $	Dollar Sales (add 000) January, 1948 $	Per cent change January, 1948 over January, 1947	Per cent change January, 1948 over December, 1947
CANADA	78	26,304	26,840	+ 2.0	- 4.1
Maritime Provinces .	16	3,682	3,458	- 6.1	-10.2
Quebec	21	3,192	3,238	+ 1.4	-24.5
Ontario	23	8,983	8,931	- 0.6	- 8.0
Prairie Provinces ..	12	6,776	6,895	+ 1.8	+11.3
British Columbia ...	6	3,671	4,318	+17.6	+ 2.3

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) January, 1947 $	Dollar Sales (add 000) January, 1948 $	Per cent change January, 1948 over January, 1947	Per cent change January, 1948 over December, 1947
CANADA	45	7,945	7,058	-11.2	-20.4
Maritimes and Quebec .	16	1,585	1,452	- 8.4	-29.4
Ontario	17	3,346	3,046	- 9.0	- 8.4
Western Provinces	12	3,014	2,560	-15.1	-28.0

RETAIL TRADE

Chain Stores - January, 1948 sales of 954 chain store units operated by 24 chain companies in the food retailing field were 60% higher than sales of 947 stores operated by the same 24 firms in January, 1947. Average sales per store in January, 1948 were $31,109, 59% above the $19,580 average for the same month of the previous year.

Extensive gains were recorded in all sections of the country.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for January, 1947 and 1948

	January, 1947		January, 1948		% Change, In Sales January, 1948 / January, 1947
	No. of Stores	Sales	No. of Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	947	18,542,200	954	29,677,700	+60.1
Maritime Provinces .	53	652,600	54	947,300	+45.2
Quebec	162	4,070,900	161	5,892,200	+44.7
Ontario	476	9,788,400	477	15,845,800	+61.9
Prairie Provinces ..	100	2,041,600	100	3,518,900	+72.4
British Columbia ...	156	1,988,700	162	3,473,500	+74.7

Independent Stores - An increase of 11% in independent food store sales in Ontario was the highest recorded in January. This was closely followed in the Maritime Provinces and British Columbia with gains of 10%. Advances in other regions of the country ranged from 3% to 7%, while the Dominion average was 9% higher than last year.

Comparison of Sales Reported for January, 1947 and 1948

	No. of Stores Reporting	No. Reporting An Increase	% Change in Sales January, 1948 / January, 1947
CANADA	1,164	757	+ 8.5
Maritime Provinces.	164	107	+ 9.7
Quebec	265	185	+ 6.7
Ontario	361	244	+10.9
Manitoba	86	50	+ 5.0
Saskatchewan	69	30	+ 3.2
Alberta	104	60	+ 5.8
British Columbia ..	115	81	+10.2

BAROMETRICS FILE 'F'

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DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
MERCHANDISING AND SERVICES STATISTICS
OTTAWA, CANADA

Dominion Statistician: Herbert Marshall
Director, Division of Census of Industry and Merchandising: W. H. Losee
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DEPT. OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION

February, 1948

This bulletin brings together the information on retail grocery and wholesale grocery and fruit and vegetable sales contained in other monthly bulletins on the retail and wholesale trade, thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution.

WHOLESALE TRADE

Grocers' Sales

The dollar volume of sales of wholesale grocers in Canada for February, 1948 was practically unchanged from that of February a year ago and was 7% below the January figures, according to statements submitted by 78 of the larger wholesalers across the country.

British Columbia continued to record sales well in advance of last year's dollar volume, while a gain of 9% was reported by Quebec wholesalers and of 2% by those in the Maritime Provinces. Sales in Ontario and the Prairie Provinces were 5% and 4% respectively below February, 1947.

Fruit and Vegetable Dealers' Sales

Sales of wholesalers of fruits and vegetables in February were 7% below the dollar volume of February, 1947, but were 5% higher than the dollar sales in January. These figures are based on statements from 49 of the larger wholesalers across Canada. Reports from the Maritimes and Quebec showed a slight increase over February last year, but sales in the other regions continued below the 1947 level. Compared with January, a substantial gain of 34% was recorded for the Maritimes and Quebec combined and a more moderate increase of 5% was shown for the Western Provinces. Dollar volume of sales in Ontario was 5% below that in January.

Grocers' Inventories

Inventories of wholesale grocers at the end of February, 1948 were 4% higher in value than at the same date a year ago but were 8% below the value reported at the end of the preceding month. Stocks at the beginning of February are normally 66% in excess of sales in that month. Wholesale grocers' inventories at the beginning of February this year were valued 49% in excess of sales.

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Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change	
		February 1947	February 1948	February, 1948 over February, 1947	February, 1948 over January, 1948
		$	$		
CANADA	78	24,232	24,312	+ 0.3	- 7.0
Maritime Provinces .	16	3,203	3,268	+ 2.0	- 3.7
Quebec	19	2,546	2,780	+ 9.2	+11.3
Ontario	23	8,147	7,726	- 5.2	-13.2
Prairie Provinces ..	14	6,876	6,585	- 4.2	- 6.5
British Columbia ...	6	3,460	3,953	+14.2	- 9.8

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change	
		February 1947	February 1948	February, 1948 over February, 1947	February, 1948 over January, 1948
		$	$		
CANADA	49	7,750	7,211	- 7.0	+ 5.3
Maritimes and Quebec.	18	1,717	1,728	+ 0.7	+34.0
Ontario	18	3,156	2,940	- 6.8	- 5.2
Western Provinces ...	13	2,877	2,543	-11.6	+ 5.2

RETAIL TRADE

Chain Stores - February, 1948 sales of 935 chain store units operated by 23 chain companies in the food retailing field were 43% higher than sales of 929 stores operated by the same 23 firms in February, 1947. Average sales per store in February, 1948 were $27,498, 42% above the $19,359 average for the same month of the previous year.

Extensive gains were recorded in all sections of the country.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for February, 1947 and 1948

	February, 1947		February, 1948		% Change, In Sales February, 1948 / February, 1947
	No. of Stores	Sales $	No. of Stores	Sales $	
CANADA	929	17,984,300	935	25,710,200	+43.0
Maritime Provinces .	53	636,400	53	864,300	+35.8
Quebec	162	4,018,200	161	5,491,200	+36.7
Ontario	481	9,505,200	484	14,317,600	+50.6
Prairie Provinces ..	92	1,959,200	92	2,461,700	+25.7
British Columbia ...	141	1,865,300	145	2,575,400	+38.1

Independent Stores - Sales of independent food stores in eastern Canada showed a firmer trend than those in the west. Decreases were reported for each of the three Prairie Provinces. Gains recorded elsewhere were of minor proportions and far below the scale of those shown by chain food stores.

Comparison of Sales Reported for February, 1947 and 1948

	No. of Stores Reporting	No. Reporting An Increase	% Change in Sales February, 1948 / February, 1947
CANADA	1,121	548	+ 2.8
Maritime Provinces .	156	78	+ 3.5
Quebec	255	142	+ 4.5
Ontario	357	196	+ 5.5
Manitoba	81	35	- 1.6
Saskatchewan	62	13	- 7.5
Alberta	99	36	- 2.8
British Columbia ...	111	48	+ 0.5

BAROMETRICS FILE

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION

March, 1948

This bulletin brings together the information on retail grocery and wholesale grocery and fruit and vegetable sales contained in other monthly bulletins on the retail and wholesale trade, thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution.

WHOLESALE TRADE

Grocers' Sales.

Wholesale grocers' sales in March, 1948 were 4% higher in dollar volume than in March, 1947 and 12% higher than in the preceding month according to statements submitted by 78 of the larger wholesalers across Canada. An increase of 13% over last year was reported for British Columbia, 7% for the Maritime Provinces and 6% for Ontario, while dollar sales were down in Quebec and the Prairie Provinces by 3% and 2% respectively.

Cumulative dollar sales for the first quarter of 1948 were 2% higher than in the corresponding period of 1947. Only slight gains of less than one per cent were reported for the year to date in the Eastern provinces while a drop of one per cent was recorded in the Prairies. British Columbia was the only province to show a marked increase in dollar volume of business, sales for the year to date there being 15% higher than in the first three months of 1947.

Fruit and Vegetable Dealers' Sales.

Advancing 11% from February, sales of fruit and vegetable wholesalers in March, 1948 were still 14% below the dollar volume of March, 1947 according to reports from 50 of the larger dealers across the country. Sales in British Columbia were down 18%; in the Maritimes, and Quebec combined, 15%; while Ontario sales were 9% lower than in the same month a year ago.

Cumulative sales for the first three months of 1948 were 11% below the dollar volume recorded for the first three months of the previous year. Wholesalers in the Maritimes, Quebec and Ontario registered an 8% drop in sales for this period, while in the Western provinces, sales for the first quarter of the current year were 15% lower than in the corresponding period of 1947.

Grocers' Inventories.

Dollar value of stocks in the hands of wholesale grocers at the end of March, 1948 was 1% higher than at the same date a year ago, but 5% below the value reported at the end of February. Stocks on hand at the beginning of March are normally 49% in excess of sales in that month. Wholesale grocers' inventories at the beginning of February this year were valued 23% in excess of sales.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) March, 1947	Dollar Sales (add 000) March, 1948	Per cent change March, 1948 over March, 1947	Per cent change March, 1948 over Feb., 1948	Per cent change Jan.-to-Mar., 1948 over Jan.-to-Mar., 1947
		$	$			
CANADA	78	26,048	27,131	+ 4.2	+11.9	+ 2.0
Maritime Provinces ...	16	3,502	3,740	+ 6.8	+20.2	+ 0.9
Quebec	20	2,968	2,890	- 2.6	+ 4.4	+ 0.3
Ontario	23	8,206	8,721	+ 6.3	+12.8	+ 0.2
Prairie Provinces	13	7,369	7,243	- 1.7	+ 9.9	- 1.4
British Columbia	6	4,003	4,538	+13.4	+13.2	+15.1

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) March, 1947	Dollar Sales (add 000) March, 1948	Per cent change March, 1948 over March, 1947	Per cent change March, 1948 over Feb., 1948	Per cent change Jan.,-to-March,1948 over Jan.,-to-March,1947
		$	$			
CANADA	50	9,472	8,155	-13.9	+10.5	-10.8
Maritime and Quebec ..	19	2,299	1,952	-15.1	+ 0.5	- 7.9
Ontario	18	3,606	3,283	- 9.0	+14.9	- 8.3
Western Provinces	13	3,567	2,920	-18.1	+10.5	-15.1

RETAIL TRADE

Chain Stores - March, 1948 sales of 977 chain store units operated by 24 chain companies in the food retailing field were 33% higher than sales of 967 stores operated by the same 24 firms in March, 1947. Average sales per store in March, 1948 were $28,681, 32% above the $21,799 average for the same month of the previous year.

Extensive gains were recorded in all sections of the country.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for March, 1947 and 1948

	March, 1947		March, 1948		% Change, In Sales March, 1948 March, 1947
	No. of Stores	Sales $	No. of Stores	Sales $	
CANADA	967	21,079,500	977	28,021,000	+32.9
Maritime Provinces .	73	863,800	72	1,086,300	+25.8
Quebec	162	4,496,600	162	5,931,900	+31.9
Ontario	468	10,949,700	473	15,210,500	+38.9
Prairie Provinces ..	125	2,554,600	125	2,966,500	+16.1
British Columbia ...	139	2,214,800	145	2,825,800	+27.6

Independent Stores - Independent food stores in Canada reported sales averaging 2% higher in March, 1948 than in March, 1947. Less than half of the reporting stores reported gains over March a year ago. A downward trend was in evidence in the Prairie Provinces, while elsewhere minor increases were experienced.

Comparison of Sales Reported for March, 1947 and 1948

	No. of Stores Reporting	No. Reporting An Increase	% Change in Sales March, 1948 March, 1947
CANADA	1,130	549	+ 2.0
Maritime Provinces .	161	88	+ 4.3
Quebec	259	141	+ 4.0
Ontario	349	175	+ 2.9
Manitoba	81	34	- 2.2
Saskatchewan	68	13	- 8.1
Alberta	100	46	- 1.1
British Columbia ...	112	52	+ 0.4

BAROMETRICS FILE 'F'

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DEPT. OF
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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION

April, 1948

This bulletin brings together the information on retail grocery and wholesale grocery and fruit and vegetable sales contained in other monthly bulletins on the retail and wholesale trade, thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution.

WHOLESALE TRADE

Grocers' Sales.

The wholesale grocery trade throughout Canada recorded considerably larger increases in sales over 1947 in April than have been recorded in preceding months, according to statements of 76 of the larger firms across the country. Sales for Canada averaged 14% above those in April, 1947 and 12% above March, 1948, whereas the cumulative gain for the year to date over the corresponding period last year was 5%.

Sales in Quebec and British Columbia were 24% above those for April a year ago. Wholesalers in the Prairie Province reported an increase of 14%; in Ontario, 10%; and in the Maritimes, 5%. In all regions, the April gains exceeded the increases in sales for the period from January to April, 1948 over the corresponding period of 1947.

Fruit and Vegetable Dealers' Sales

Dollar sales of fruit and vegetable wholesalers in April continued 11% below the 1947 level but showed an increase of 6% over March, 1948 sales. These figures are based on statements submitted by 47 of the larger dealers across Canada. The April decrease is in line with the decrease for the first four months of 1948 compared with the first four months of 1947 which amounted to 12%.

There was a considerable range in the decreases recorded for the various regions of the country. Fruit and vegetable sales in Ontario were only 2% below April, 1947; in the Maritimes and Quebec combined, they were down 7%; while in the Western Provinces, a drop of 21% was recorded. The only variation from the percentage decreases for the year to date occured in Ontario where April sales were down only 2% compared with a drop of 7% for the first four months combined.

Year's subscription, $1.00
Single copies, 10 cents

Grocers' Inventories

There was a drop in value of stocks in the hands of wholesale grocers at the end of April, 1948 amounting to 2% compared with the same date a year ago and 5% compared with March 31, 1948. Stocks on hand at the beginning of April are normally 35% in excess of sales in that month. Wholesale grocers' inventories at the beginning of April this year were valued only 6% in excess of sales in that month.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) April, 1947	Dollar Sales (add 000) April, 1948	Per cent change April, 1948 over April, 1947	Per cent change April, 1948 over March 1948	Per cent change Jan.,-to-Apr.,1948 Jan.,-to-Apr.,1947
		$	$			
CANADA	76	25,975	29,548	+13.8	+11.9	+ 5.2
Maritime Provinces .	16	3,935	4,119	+ 4.7	+ 7.5	+ 1.9
Quebec	17	2,980	3,685	+23.6	+20.1	+ 8.5
Ontario	23	8.628	9,448	+ 9.5	+13.1	+ 2.6
Prairie Provinces ..	14	6,505	7,431	+14.2	+ 9.0	+ 2.4
British Columbia ...	6	3,927	4,865	+23.9	+ 8.7	+17.4

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) April, 1947	Dollar Sales (add 000) April, 1948	Per cent change April, 1948 over April, 1947	Per cent change April, 1948 over March 1948	Per cent change Jan.,-to-April, 1948 Jan.,-to-April, 1947
		$	$			
CANADA	47	9,874	8,832	-10.6	+ 5.9	-11.6
Maritimes and Quebec .	16	2,007	1,860	- 7.3	+20.0	- 7.7
Ontario	17	4,002	3,906	- 2.4	+21.0	- 6.5
Western Provinces ...	14	3,865	3,066	-20.7	+11.7	-19.2

RETAIL TRADE

Chain Stores - April, 1948 sales of 937 chain store units operated by 23 chain companies in the food retailing field were 30% higher than sales of 929 stores operated by the same 23 firms in April, 1947. Average sales per store in April, 1948 were $29,578, 29% above the $22,891 average for the same month of the previous year.

Extensive gains were recorded in all sections of the country.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for April, 1947 and 1948

	April, 1947		April, 1948		% Change, In Sales April, 1948 April, 1947
	No. of Stores	Sales	No. of Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	929	21,265,600	937	27,714,800	+30.3
Maritime Provinces ..	61	759,600	60	981,300	+29.2
Quebec	162	4,470,900	162	5,713,900	+27.8
Ontario	481	11,709,300	484	15,166,700	+29.5
Prairie Provinces ...	85	2,211,400	85	2,879,200	+30.2
British Columbia	140	2,114,400	146	2,973,100	+40.6

Independent Stores - Independent food stores did 8% more business in April 1948 than in the same month of last year. Ontario showed the largest increase of 12%, followed by gains of 9% in the Maritime Provinces and 8% in Quebec. Smaller gains were recorded in western Canada, ranging from 1% in Manitoba to 6% in Saskatchewan.

Comparison of Sales Reported for April, 1947 and 1948

	No. of Stores Reporting	No. Reporting An Increase	% Change in Sales April, 1948 April, 1947
CANADA	1,107	685	+ 8.2
Maritime Provinces ..	157	101	+ 9.4
Quebec	252	165	+ 8.3
Ontario	351	241	+11.8
Manitoba	87	39	+ 1.1
Saskatchewan	63	32	+ 6.0
Alberta	97	50	+ 2.8
British Columbia	100	57	+ 3.7

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DEPT. OF POLITICAL ECONOMY

CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION

May, 1948

This bulletin brings together the information on retail grocery and wholesale grocery and fruit and vegetable sales contained in other monthly bulletins on the retail and wholesale trade, thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution.

WHOLESALE TRADE

Grocers' Sales.

Dollar volume of sales of wholesale grocers in May, 1948 was 3% above that for the same month a year ago but 7% below the volume for April, 1948. These figures are based on returns for 76 of the larger firms across Canada. The cumulative gain for the first five months of 1948 over the corresponding period of 1947 was 5% for Canada as a whole. This increase varied between 2% and 5% for the provinces east of British Columbia and jumped to 16% for British Columbia.

Compared with May last year, sales in May, 1948 showed the greatest gain in the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia where the volume was 9% higher. An increase of 7% in dollar sales was recorded in the Maritime Provinces, while sales of wholesale grocers in Ontario and Quebec dropped 2% and 3% respectively.

Fruit and Vegetable Dealers' Sales.

A drop of 26% from May, 1947 in dollar sales of wholesale fruit and vegetable dealers was recorded from the combined statements of 50 of the larger wholesalers across the country. Compared with April, 1948, May sales were up 4%. Cumulative sales for the year 1948 to date were 15% lower than in the first five months of 1947.

All regions of the country registered decided declines in volume of fruit and vegetable sales. Sales in the Maritimes and Quebec combined were down 30%; Ontario, 23%; and the Western Provinces, 27%.

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Grocers' Inventories.

Stocks in the hands of wholesale grocers at May 31st were 2.5% lower in dollar value than at the same date a year ago and 5% below the value at the end of April this year. Inventories at the beginning of May are normally 26% in excess of sales in that month (based on the average of 1935 - 1942). Wholesale grocers' inventories at the beginning of May this year were value 8% in excess of sales in that month.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change		
		May, 1947	May, 1948	May, 1948 over May, 1947	May, 1948 over April 1948	Jan.,-to-May, 1948 Jan.,-to-May, 1947
		$	$			
CANADA	76	26,991	27,833	+ 3.1	- 7.0	+ 4.8
Maritime Provinces .	15	3,736	4,012	+ 7.4	- 2.7	+ 3.1
Quebec	21	4,020	3,896	- 3.1	- 9.0	+ 5.4
Ontario	23	8,918	8,713	- 2.3	- 6.8	+ 1.6
Prairie Provinces ..	11	6,446	7,001	+ 8.6	+ 1.9	+ 3.7
British Columbia ...	6	3,871	4,211	+ 8.8	-16.4	+15.7

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change		
		May, 1947	May, 1948	May, 1948 over May, 1947	May, 1948 over April 1948	Jan., -to-May, 1948 Jan., -to-May, 1947
		$	$			
CANADA	50	12,150	8,956	-26.3	+ 4.1	-15.2
Maritimes and Quebec.	18	2,828	1,977	-30.1	-11.4	-13.4
Ontario	18	4,609	3,553	-22.9	-11.3	-10.6
Western Provinces ...	14	4,713	3,426	-27.3	+ 4.6	-20.8

RETAIL TRADE

Chain Stores - May, 1948 sales of 945 chain store units operated by 24 chain companies in the food retailing field were 25% higher than sales of 947 stores operated by the same 24 firms in May, 1947. Average sales per store in May, 1948 were $31,109, 25% above the $24,831 average for the same month of the previous year.

An increase of 34% in British Columbia featured the chain store results. Establishment of a number of new outlets has probably had some effect upon this result.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for May, 1947 and 1948

	May, 1947		May, 1948		% Change in Sales May, 1948 May, 1947
	No. of Stores	Sales $	No. of Stores	Sales $	
CANADA	947	23,514,900	945	29,398,300	+25.0
Maritime Provinces ...	60	895,500	58	1,051,100	+17.4
Quebec	162	5,072,700	154	6,089,300	+20.0
Ontario	488	12,609,200	489	16,053,000	+27.3
Prairie Provinces	98	2,659,200	98	3,148,200	+18.4
British Columbia	139	2,278,300	146	3,056,700	+34.2

Independent Stores - Independent food merchants reported little change in volume of sales from May last year. In Eastern Canada slight increases occurred, but in the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia minor declines prevailed.

Comparison of Sales Reported for May, 1947 and 1948

	No. of Stores Reporting	No. Reporting An Increase	% Change in Sales May, 1948 May, 1947
CANADA	1,136	546	+1.4
Maritime Provinces	165	73	+0.4
Quebec	260	133	+2.4
Ontario	359	183	+2.8
Manitoba	85	35	-1.2
Saskatchewan	62	25	-1.4
Alberta	97	47	-1.0
British Columbia	108	50	-0.3

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION

June, 1948

This bulletin brings together the information on retail grocery and wholesale grocery and fruit and vegetable sales contained in other monthly bulletins on the retail and wholesale trade, thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution.

WHOLESALE TRADE

Wholesale Grocers' Sales.

Sales of wholesale grocers in June, 1948 were 14% higher in dollar volume than in June, 1947 and the same percentage higher than in May, 1948, according to statements submitted by 72 of the larger firms across Canada. Cumulative sales for the first six months of 1948 showed an increase in volume of 7% over the first half of 1947. All regions reported increased sales volumes, with gains over June, 1947 ranging from 5% in Quebec to 25% in the Maritime Provinces.

Fruit and Vegetable Wholesalers' Sales.

Dollar volume of sales of fruit and vegetable dealers continued well below last year's level in June when the 48 firms submitting reports registered a decline of 19%. Compared with May, 1948, June sales were up 5%, while the cumulative total for the year to date was 16% lower than that for the first six months of 1947. Fruit and vegetable dealers in the Maritime Provinces reported sales 30% below last June; in British Columbia there was a drop of 25%; while a decline of 8% was registered in Ontario.

Grocers' Inventories.

Inventories of wholesale grocers at June 30, 1948 were 7% lower in value than at the same date a year ago and 4% below the end of May this year. Inventories at the beginning of June are normally 20% in excess of sales in that month (based on the average of 1935 - 1942), while at the beginning of June this year, they were 14% below the sales volume for that month.

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Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) June, 1947	Dollar Sales (add 000) June, 1948	Per cent change June, 1948 over June, 1947	Per cent change June, 1948 over May, 1948	Per cent change Jan. -to- June, 1948 over Jan. -to- June, 1947
		$	$			
CANADA	72	27,018	30,752	+13.8	+14.3	+ 6.6
Maritime Provinces	14	3,460	4,339	+25.4	+12.1	+ 6.8
Quebec	17	2,861	2,998	+ 4.8	+ 7.1	+ 5.3
Ontario	22	9,128	10,208	+11.8	+14.1	+ 3.7
Prairie Provinces.	13	7,149	8,333	+16.6	+11.4	+ 6.1
British Columbia .	6	4,420	4,874	+10.3	+23.5	+14.6

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) June, 1947	Dollar Sales (add 000) June, 1948	Per cent change June, 1948 over June, 1947	Per cent change June, 1948 over May, 1948	Per cent change Jan. -to- June, 1948 over Jan. -to- June, 1947
		$	$			
CANADA	48	12,434	10,031	-19.3	+ 5.4	-16.0
Maritimes & Quebec.	15	2,498	1,743	-30.2	+ 1.9	-16.9
Ontario	19	4,856	4,465	- 8.0	+11.1	-10.1
Western Provinces.	14	5,080	3,823	-24.7	+ 4.4	-21.6

RETAIL TRADE

Chain Stores - June, 1948 sales of 953 chain store units operated by 24 chain companies in the food retailing field were 34% higher than sales of 960 stores operated by the same 24 firms in June, 1947. Average sales per store in June, 1948 were $30,694, 35% above the $22,681 average for the same month of the previous year.

Ontario and Quebec had the largest increases (36% and 35%), but gains elsewhere were also of sizeable proportions.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for June, 1947 and 1948

	June, 1947		June, 1948		% Change in Sales June, 1948 / June, 1947
	No. of Stores	Sales	No. of Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	960	21,773,400	953	29,251,000	+34.3
Maritime Provinces ...	73	915,100	72	1,167,800	+27.6
Quebec	161	4,626,100	155	6,256,600	+35.3
Ontario	478	11,485,900	475	15,648,100	+36.2
Prairie Provinces	107	2,503,900	104	3,220,600	+28.6
British Columbia	141	2,242,400	147	2,957,900	+31.9

Independent Stores - Independent stores did 13% more business in June this year than last. The largest increase of 17% was recorded in Ontario, followed by gains ranging from 4% to 15% in the other regions.

Comparison of Sales Reported for June, 1947 and 1948

	No. of Stores Reporting	No. Reporting An Increase	% Change in Sales June, 1948 / June, 1947
CANADA	669	453	+12.5
Maritime Provinces	124	90	+11.6
Quebec	137	98	+14.0
Ontario	182	130	+16.6
Manitoba	51	30	+ 9.2
Saskatchewan	29	19	+14.5
Alberta	52	32	+ 9.2
British Columbia	94	54	+ 4.1

BAROMETRICS FILE 'F'

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DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
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OTTAWA, CANADA

Dominion Statistician: Herbert Marshall
Director, Division of Census of Industry and Merchandising: W. H. Losee
Chief, Merchandising and Services Statistics: C. H. McDonald
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POLIT

CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION

July, 1948

This bulletin brings together the information on retail grocery and wholesale grocery and fruit and vegetable sales contained in other monthly bulletins on the retail and wholesale trade, thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution.

WHOLESALE TRADE

Wholesale Grocers' Sales

Dollar volume of sales of wholesale grocers in July, 1948 was 11% higher than in July last year and 8% above June, 1948, according to statements submitted by 71 of the larger firms across Canada. Sales for the first seven months of 1948 were 7% in excess of the dollar volume for the corresponding period of 1947. A decrease of 7% in dollar sales compared with July a year ago was recorded by grocers in Quebec, while those in Ontario and the Maritime Provinces had gains of 7% and 8%, and in British Columbia and the Prairie Provinces, of 19% and 21% respectively.

Fruit and Vegetable Wholesalers' Sales

Sales of fruit and vegetable dealers in July, 1948 were 23% lower in dollar volume than in July, 1947 and were 1% below the volume in June this year according to statements of 46 of the larger dealers across the country. Cumulative sales for the year to date were 17% lower than for the first seven months of 1947. British Columbia sales were down 27%; the Maritimes and Quebec combined, 22%; and Ontario, 17%.

Grocers' Inventories

Stocks in the hands of wholesale grocers at the end of July this year were 3% higher in value than those held at the same date a year ago, and 9% above the value of stocks on hand at the end of June this year. Inventories at the beginning of July are normally 7% in excess of sales in that month - based on the average of 1935-1942 - while stocks on hand at the beginning of July this year were valued 20% lower than the sales volume for July.

Price: Year's subscription $1.00
Single copies .10

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) July, 1947	Dollar Sales (add 000) July, 1948	Per cent change July, 1948 over July, 1947	Per cent change July, 1948 over June, 1948	Per cent change Jan. - to-July, 1948 Jan. - to-July, 1947
		$	$			
CANADA	71	29,129	32,364	+11.1	+ 7.7	+ 7.3
Maritime Provinces	13	3,764	4,057	+ 7.8	+ 3.7	+ 6.8
Quebec	17	3,403	3,183	- 6.5	+ 1.8	+ 3.0
Ontario	22	10,015	10,740	+ 7.2	+ 3.3	+ 4.2
Prairie Provinces.	13	7,705	9,337	+21.2	+18.6	+ 8.7
British Columbia..	6	4,242	5,047	+19.0	+ 2.5	+15.3

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) July, 1947	Dollar Sales (add 000) July, 1948	Per cent change July, 1948 over July, 1947	Per cent change July, 1948 over June, 1948	Per cent change Jan. - to-July, 1948 Jan. -to-July, 1947
		$	$			
CANADA	46	13,863	10,746	-22.5	- 0.7	-17.1
Maritimes & Quebec.	14	2,405	1,874	-22.1	-10.6	-17.6
Ontario	18	4,984	4,121	-17.3	- 4.1	-11.3
Western Provinces .	14	6,474	4,751	-26.6	+12.3	-22.3

RETAIL TRADE

Chain Stores - July, 1948 sales of 956 chain store units operated by 24 chain companies in the food retailing field were 40% higher than sales of 956 stores operated by the same 24 firms in July, 1947. Average sales per store were $32,688 in July, 1948 and $23,344 in the same month of the previous year.

Increases exceeded 32% in all parts of the country, the largest gains (43%) occurring in Ontario and British Columbia.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for July, 1947 and 1948

	July, 1947		July, 1948		% Change in Sales July, 1948 / July, 1947
	No. of Stores	Sales $	No. of Stores	Sales $	
CANADA	956	22,316,900	956	31,249,600	+40.0
Maritime Provinces	74	1,000,700	73	1,324,800	+32.4
Quebec	162	4,599,000	163	6,277,000	+36.5
Ontario	481	11,955,700	479	17,084,700	+42.9
Prairie Provinces	98	2,586,900	97	3,464,000	+33.9
British Columbia	141	2,174,600	144	3,099,100	+42.5

Independent Stores - Sales of independent food stores were 13% higher in July this year than in July, 1947. Increases were fairly uniform from the Maritimes to Saskatchewan, ranging from 12% to 17%. In Alberta and British Columbia the margin of gain was reduced to 9% and 8%.

Comparison of Sales Reported for July, 1947 and 1948

	No. of Stores Reporting	No. Reporting An Increase	% Change in Sales July, 1948 / July, 1947
CANADA	760	555	+13.0
Maritime Provinces	128	102	+14.3
Quebec	169	123	+11.7
Ontario	205	149	+16.9
Manitoba	48	32	+12.0
Saskatchewan	34	28	+14.4
Alberta	62	46	+ 9.4
British Columbia	114	75	+ 7.8

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OTTAWA, CANADA

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION

August, 1948

This bulletin brings together the information on retail grocery and wholesale grocery and fruit and vegetable sales contained in other monthly bulletins on the retail and wholesale trade, thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution.

WHOLESALE TRADE

Wholesale Grocers' Sales

Wholesale grocers' sales in August, 1948 were 17% higher in dollar volume than in August a year ago but fell off 1% from the July volume according to reports submitted by 72 of the larger establishments across Canada. Cumulative sales for the year to date exceeded those for the corresponding period of 1947 by 8%. Gains for the various regions of the country were fairly consistent, ranging between 11% shown in Quebec and 20% in British Columbia.

Fruit and Vegetable Dealers' Sales

August sales of fruit and vegetable wholesalers were 18% below the volume for August, 1947 and 1% lower than in July this year, with sales for the year to date 17% lower than in the first eight months of 1947. Decreases of 16% were reported for British Columbia and Ontario, while sales in the Maritime Provinces and Quebec combined were 27% lower than in August last year.

Grocers' Inventories

The value of inventories at the end of August, 1948, as reported by wholesale grocers, was 11% above that on the same date a year ago and 2% higher than at the end of July this year. Inventories at the beginning of August are normally 11% in excess of sales in that month (based on the average of 1935 - 1942), while stocks at the beginning of August this year were valued 10% lower than the sales volume for that month.

Year's subscription, $1.00
Single copies, .10

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change		
		August, 1947	August, 1948	August, 1948 over August, 1947	August, 1948 over July, 1948	Jan. - to-Aug., 1948 over Jan. - to-Aug., 1947
		$	$			
CANADA	72	27,387	31,973	+16.7	- 0.9	+ 8.4
Maritime Provinces	15	3,548	4,150	+17.0	- 4.0	+ 8.2
Quebec	17	3,098	3,442	+11.1	+ 6.2	+ 3.6
Ontario	21	8,770	10,332	+17.8	+ 1.4	+ 6.0
Prairie Provinces.	13	7,829	9,085	+16.0	- 4.4	+ 9.7
British Columbia .	6	4,142	4,964	+19.8	- 2.1	+15.9

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change		
		August, 1947	August, 1948	August, 1948 over August, 1947	August, 1948 over July, 1948	Jan. - to-Aug., 1948 over Jan. -to-Aug., 1947
		$	$			
CANADA	48	12,601	10,333	-18.0	- 1.0	-17.3
Maritimes & Quebec	16	2,311	1,688	-27.0	-21.4	-18.8
Ontario	18	4,120	3,458	-16.1	-12.8	-12.0
Western Provinces.	14	6,170	5,187	-15.9	+19.0	-21.4

RETAIL TRADE

Chain Stores - August, 1948 sales of 978 chain store units operated by 26 chain companies in the food retailing field were 16% higher than sales of 976 stores operated by the same 26 firms in August, 1947. Average sales per store were $28,611 in August, 1948 and $24,650 in the same month of the previous year.

Increases in Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia compared favourably with the average result, but in the Maritime and Prairie Provinces, August sales rose only 7% and 8% respectively over August, 1947.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for August, 1947 and 1948

	August, 1947		August, 1948		% Change in Sales August, 1948 / August, 1947
	No. of Stores	Sales	No. of Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	976	24,058,300	978	27,981,100	+16.3
Maritime Provinces	74	1,094,000	72	1,173,000	+ 7.3
Quebec	162	4,913,200	164	5,700,600	+16.0
Ontario	493	12,623,200	490	15,023,100	+19.0
Prairie Provinces	99	2,904,800	97	3,134,700	+ 7.9
British Columbia	148	2,523,100	155	2,949,700	+16.9

Independent Stores - Sales of independent food stores were 4% higher in August this year than in August, 1947. Saskatchewan showed a slight decline from August last year. In other sections of the country, moderate gains were reported, the highest being a 9% increase in Alberta.

Comparison of Sales Reported for August, 1947 and 1948

	No. of Stores Reporting	No. Reporting An Increase	% Change in Sales August, 1948 / August, 1947
CANADA	779	367	+ 3.5
Maritime Provinces	133	62	+ 1.1
Quebec	180	92	+ 6.7
Ontario	202	85	+ 3.1
Manitoba	49	24	+ 3.4
Saskatchewan	34	13	- 0.7
Alberta	64	39	+ 8.5
British Columbia	117	52	+ 0.4

BAROMETRICS FILE "F"

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Dominion Statistician: Herbert Marshall
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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION

September, 1948

This bulletin brings together the information on retail grocery and wholesale grocery and fruit and vegetable sales contained in other monthly bulletins on the retail and wholesale trade, thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution.

WHOLESALE TRADE

Grocers' Sales

The dollar volume of sales of wholesale grocers in September, 1948 was 9% in excess of September, 1947 and 5% higher than in August, 1948, according to statements from 74 of the larger wholesalers across the country. The September gain was in line with that shown by the cumulative figure for the year to date which was 8.5% above the corresponding period of 1947. Increases over 1947 in the Prairie Provinces and in Ontario amounted to 15 and 11% respectively while lesser gains of between 2 and 6% were recorded in the other regions.

Fruit and Vegetable Dealers' Sales

September sales of fruit and vegetable wholesalers in Canada were only 2% below the September, 1947 figure and were 10% above August, 1948. Cumulative sales for the first nine months of 1948 were 16% below the dollar volume in the corresponding period of 1947. Fruit and vegetable wholesalers' sales in the Western Provinces rose 7% above the September, 1947 volume but this gain was offset by decreases of 20% in the Maritimes and Quebec combined and 8% in Ontario.

Grocers' Inventories

Stocks in the hands of wholesale grocers at the end of September were 16% higher in value than at the same date a year ago and 11% higher than at the beginning of the month. Inventories at the beginning of September are normally 10% in excess of sales in that month (based on the average of 1935-1942), while stocks at the beginning of September this year were 13% lower than the sales volume for that month.

Years' subscription - $1.00
Single copies - .10

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change		
		September, 1947	September, 1948	September, 1948 over September, 1947	August, 1948	Jan. -to- Sept., 1948 Jan. -to- Sept., 1947
		$	$			
CANADA	74	31,256	34,066	+ 9.0	+ 4.6	+ 8.5
Maritime Provinces	14	4,021	4,122	+ 2.5	- 2.9	+ 7.5
Quebec	19	4,494	4,682	+ 4.2	+18.7	+ 3.8
Ontario	23	10,066	11,135	+10.6	+ 1.0	+ 6.6
Prairie Provinces.	12	7,962	9,126	+14.6	+ 6.4	+10.4
British Columbia .	6	4,713	5,001	+ 6.1	+ 6.5	+14.6

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change		
		September, 1947	September, 1948	September, 1948 over September, 1947	August, 1948	Jan. -to- Sept., 1948 Jan. -to- Sept., 1947
		$	$			
CANADA	49	11,804	11,548	- 2.2	+ 9.6	-15.7
Maritimes & Quebec	16	2,035	1,634	-19.7	+ 1.8	-18.7
Ontario	19	3,700	3,394	- 8.3	+ 3.5	-11.8
Western Provinces.	14	6,069	6,520	+ 7.4	+20.0	-17.6

RETAIL TRADE

Chain Stores - September, 1948 sales of 964 chain store units operated by 26 chain companies in the food retailing field were 24% higher than sales of 965 stores operated by the same 26 firms in September, 1947. Average sales per store were $30,515 in September, 1948 and $24,632 in the same month of the previous year.

Increases amounted to more than 20% in all sections of the country except the Maritime Provinces where the gain was held to 7%.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for September, 1947 and 1948

	September, 1947		September, 1948		% Change in Sales September, 1948 / September, 1947
	No. of Stores	Sales	No. of Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	965	23,770,200	964	29,416,000	+23.8
Maritime Provinces	55	922,700	53	986,200	+ 6.9
Quebec	162	5,045,900	158	6,255,600	+24.0
Ontario	494	12,517,400	493	15,811,700	+26.3
Prairie Provinces	106	2,794,600	105	3,354,900	+20.1
British Columbia	148	2,489,600	155	3,007,600	+20.8

Independent Stores - Sales of independent food stores were 7% higher in September this year than in September, 1947.

Comparison of Sales Reported for September, 1947 and 1948

	No. of Stores Reporting	No. Reporting An Increase	% Change in Sales September, 1948 / September, 1947
CANADA	827	498	+ 7.4
Maritime Provinces	143	89	+ 5.2
Quebec	194	117	+ 9.5
Ontario	215	125	+ 6.3
Manitoba	55	37	+12.8
Saskatchewan	39	28	+12.7
Alberta	62	45	+10.2
British Columbia	119	57	+ 3.5

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION

October, 1948

This bulletin brings together the information on retail grocery and wholesale grocery and fruit and vegetable sales contained in other monthly bulletins on the retail and wholesale trade, thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution.

WHOLESALE TRADE

Grocers' Sales

Grocery wholesalers' sales in October dropped 10% below the dollar volume for the same month a year ago and 3% below September according to statements from 72 of the larger wholesalers across the country. The cumulative gain for the year to date compared with the first ten months of 1947 declined to 6% with the October decrease. The only region to register an increase in volume of sales over October a year ago was the Prairie Provinces where sales were up 2%. Decreases were recorded in the other regions as follows: British Columbia, 3%; the Maritime Provinces and Quebec, 11%; and Ontario, 17%.

Fruit and Vegetable Dealers' Sales

Dollar sales of wholesalers of fruits and vegetables were 17% lower in October, 1948 than in the same month of 1947 and 16% below sales in September, 1948. These figures are based on statements submitted by 48 of the larger wholesalers across the country. Cumulative sales for the first ten months of 1948 were 16% below the dollar volume for the corresponding period of 1947. The decline in the Western Provinces, 9% was less marked than in the East. Ontario sales dropped 23% from 1947 and sales in the Maritimes and Quebec combined were down 24%.

Grocers' Inventories

Wholesale grocers' inventories at the end of October were valued 18% higher than at the same date a year ago and 11% higher than at the beginning of the month. Inventories at the beginning of October are normally 17% in excess of sales in that month (based on the average of 1935 - 1942), while stocks at the beginning of October this year were valued 1% lower than the sales volume for that month.

Years' subscription - $1.00
Single copies - .10

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) October, 1947	Dollar Sales (add 000) October, 1948	Per cent change October, 1948 over October, 1947	Per cent change October, 1948 over Sept., 1948	Per cent change Jan. -to- Oct., 1948 over Jan. -to- Oct., 1947
		$	$			
CANADA	72	33,377	30,144	- 9.7	- 3.0	+ 6.0
Maritime Provinces	15	4,712	4,183	-11.2	+ 4.5	+ 5.0
Quebec	18	4,339	3,843	-11.4	+ 4.2	+ 1.0
Ontario	22	12,834	10,690	-16.7	- 2.3	+ 3.4
Prairie Provinces.	12	8,754	8,926	+ 2.0	- 7.6	+13.8
British Columbia .	5	2,738	2,502	- 8.6	- 4.5	+11.5

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) October, 1947	Dollar Sales (add 000) October, 1948	Per cent change October, 1948 over October, 1947	Per cent change October, 1948 over Sept., 1948	Per cent change Jan. -to- Oct., 1948 over Jan. -to- Oct., 1947
		$	$			
CANADA	48	10,755	8,955	-16.7	-15.8	-15.7
Maritimes & Quebec	16	1,947	1,476	-24.2	- 1.9	-21.6
Ontario	18	3,962	3,067	-22.6	-17.5	-12.7
Western Provinces.	14	4,846	4,412	- 9.0	-22.2	-16.9

RETAIL TRADE

Chain Stores - October, 1948 sales of 975 chain store units operated by 28 chain companies in the food retailing field were 29% higher than sales of 974 stores operated by 28 firms in October 1947. Average sales per store were $34,489 in October, 1948 and $26,682 in the same month of the previous year.

Increases amounted to more than 25% in all sections of the country except the Maritime Provinces where the gain was held to 15%.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for October, 1947 and 1948

	October, 1947		October, 1948		% Change in Sales October, 1948 / October, 1947
	No. of Stores	Sales	No. of Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	974	25,988,700	975	33,626,300	+29.4
Maritime Provinces	74	1,101,200	73	1,266,900	+15.1
Quebec	162	5,603,500	159	7,191,100	+28.3
Ontario	496	13,807,600	495	18,164,900	+31.6
Prairie Provinces	107	2,868,300	105	3,699,200	+29.0
British Columbia	135	2,608,100	143	3,304,200	+26.7

Independent Stores - Sales of independent food stores were 7% higher in October this year than in October, 1947. Only in Manitoba where the gain was 16%, did results for any region vary appreciably from the Canada Average.

Comparison of Sales Reported for October, 1947 and 1948

	No. of Stores Reporting	No. Reporting An Increase	% Change in Sales October, 1948 / October, 1947
CANADA	844	528	+ 7.3
Maritime Provinces	147	98	+ 7.6
Quebec	199	123	+ 5.2
Ontario	222	134	+ 8.5
Manitoba	57	38	+15.9
Saskatchewan	34	22	+10.3
Alberta	64	48	+ 8.3
British Columbia	121	65	+ 3.9

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DEPT. OF
LITICAL ECONOMY

CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION

November, 1948

This bulletin brings together the information on retail grocery and wholesale grocery and fruit and vegetable sales contained in other monthly bulletins on the retail and wholesale trade, thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution.

WHOLESALE TRADE

Grocers' Sales

Sales of wholesale grocers in November, 1948 were 4% lower in dollar volume than in November, 1947 and 7% below the October, 1948 volume according to statements submitted by 70 of the larger firms across Canada. Cumulative sales for the 11 months of 1948 were 5% in excess of the volume for the corresponding period of 1947. An increase of 9% was recorded for British Columbia while wholesalers in all other regions recorded decreases. Sales in the Prairies were down 2% from November, 1947, in the Maritimes, 7%, in Quebec, 8%, and in Ontario, 9%.

Fruit and Vegetable Wholesalers' Sales

Fruit and vegetable wholesalers' sales were 2% below the November, 1947 level but 13% higher than the dollar sales in October, 1948 according to reports from 50 of the larger dealers across the country. The cumulative figures for the 11 months of 1948 show a drop of 15% from the sales volume of the corresponding period of 1947. Fruit and vegetable wholesalers in the Western Provinces reported an increase over November, 1947 of 6%, while in Ontario, sales were down 2% and in the Maritimes and Quebec combined, there was a drop of 13%.

Grocers' Stocks

Inventories of wholesale grocers were valued 21% higher at November 30, 1948 than at the same date in 1947, and were 7% higher than at the beginning of the month. Inventories at the beginning of November are normally 43% in excess of the sales volume in that month (based on the average of 1935-1942), while stocks at the beginning of November this year were 21% higher than the November sales volume.

Year's subscription - $1.00
Single copies - .10

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) November, 1947	Dollar Sales (add 000) November, 1948	Per cent change November, 1948 over November, 1947	Per cent change November, 1948 over October, 1948	Per cent change Jan. -to- Nov., 1948 over Jan. -to- Nov., 1947
		$	$			
CANADA	70	32,013	30,731	- 4.0	- 6.9	+ 5.0
Maritime Provinces	16	4,638	4,323	- 6.8	- 6.6	+ 3.9
Quebec	15	2,579	2,365	- 8.3	- 6.5	- 0.1
Ontario	21	11,135	10,146	- 8.9	- 6.3	+ 2.1
Prairie Provinces.	12	8,831	8,621	- 2.4	-12.1	+ 8.2
British Columbia .	6	4,830	5,276	+ 9.2	- 2.7	+11.9

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number, of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) November, 1947	Dollar Sales (add 000) November, 1948	Per cent change November, 1948 over November, 1947	Per cent change November, 1948 over October, 1948	Per cent change Jan. -to- Nov., 1948 over Jan. -to- Nov., 1947
		$	$			
CANADA	50	9,399	9,231	- 1.8	+12.8	-14.6
Maritimes & Quebec	17	2,254	1,963	-12.9	+40.4	-18.7
Ontario	19	3,620	3,533	- 2.4	+25.1	-11.9
Western Provinces.	14	3,525	3,735	+ 5.9	- 1.7	-14.7

RETAIL TRADE

Chain Stores - November, 1948 sales of 972 chain store units operated by 27 chain companies in the food retailing field were 12% higher than sales of 979 stores operated by 27 firms in November 1947. Average sales per store were $32,060 in November, 1948 and $28,437 in the same month of the previous year.

Sales in the Maritime Provinces were up only 3% from November, 1947. Other provinces had increases which were consistent with the average gain for Canada as a whole.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for November, 1947 and 1948

	November, 1947		November, 1948		% Change in Sales November, 1948 / November, 1947
	No. of Stores	Sales $	No. of Stores	Sales $	
CANADA	979	27,839,500	972	31,162,400	+11.9
Maritime Provinces	74	1,141,100	70	1,177,600	+ 3.2
Quebec	162	5,790,500	159	6,684,800	+15.4
Ontario	485	15,019,600	486	16,728,500	+11.4
Prairie Provinces	107	3,017,700	104	3,342,000	+10.8
British Columbia	151	2,870,600	153	3,229,500	+12.5

Independent Stores - Sales of independent food stores increased 6% in November, 1948 compared with November, 1947. Quebec, Manitoba and Alberta with gains of 8%, 10% and 13% respectively, recorded the greatest gains.

Comparison of Sales Reported for November, 1947 and 1948

	No. of Stores Reporting	No. Reporting An Increase	% Change in Sales November, 1948 / November, 1947
CANADA	709	404	+ 5.7
Maritime Provinces	128	71	+ 4.3
Quebec	156	92	+ 7.8
Ontario	190	100	+ 3.7
Manitoba	50	34	+ 9.7
Saskatchewan	36	19	+ 3.3
Alberta	55	35	+12.5
British Columbia	94	53	+ 3.9

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DEPT. OF POLITICAL ECONOMY

CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION

December, 1948

This bulletin brings together the information on retail grocery and wholesale grocery and fruit and vegetable sales contained in other monthly bulletins on the retail and wholesale trade, thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution.

WHOLESALE TRADE

Grocers' Sales

Dollar sales of wholesale grocers for Canada as a whole were only slightly higher than in December a year ago but were 16% lower than in November, 1948 according to statements submitted by 72 of the larger wholesalers across the country. Sales for the twelve months of 1948 were 5% higher than for the year 1947. Results for December, 1948 compared with December, 1947 varied for different regions of the country. Wholesalers in the Maritime Provinces and Quebec combined reported only a slight decline from December a year ago, while those in Ontario registered a decrease of 4%. A gain of 3% was recorded by wholesale grocers in the Prairie Provinces and of 10% by those in British Columbia.

Fruit and Vegetable Wholesalers' Sales

For the first time in 1948, sales of fruit and vegetable wholesalers in December rose above the 1947 level with an increase of 7%. Sales for December also showed a slight increase of 1% over those for November, 1948. These figures are based on statements received from 48 of the larger dealers across the country. The cumulative figure for the year 1948 remains 13% below the volume for the 12 months of 1947. The results for December compared with December a year ago varied by regions. Fruit and vegetable wholesalers in the Maritimes and Quebec combined reported dollar sales 8% below December, 1947 while gains of 6% and 17% were recorded for Ontario and the Western Provinces.

Grocers' Inventories

Stocks in the hands of wholesale grocers at December 31, 1948 were valued only 1% higher than at the same date last year and 8% below the value at the beginning of the month. Inventories at the beginning of

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December are normally 64% in excess of sales in that month (based on the average of 1935 - 1942), while stocks at the beginning of December, 1948 were valued 42% higher than the sales volume in that month.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) December, 1947	Dollar Sales (add 000) December, 1948	Per cent change December, 1948 over December, 1947	Per cent change December, 1948 over November, 1948	Per cent change Jan. -to- Dec., 1948 Jan. -to- Dec., 1947
		$	$			
CANADA	72	25,306	25,358	+ 0.2	-16.4	+ 4.7
Maritime Provinces.	15	3,688	3,675	- 0.4	-13.7	+ 3.5
Quebec	18	3,009	2,995	- 0.5	-17.3	+ 0.2
Ontario	22	9,505	9,142	- 3.8	-10.6	+ 1.7
Prairie Provinces .	12	6,916	7,147	+ 3.3	-25.9	+ 7.9
British Columbia ..	5	2,188	2,399	+ 9.7	-10.6	+11.7

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) December, 1947	Dollar Sales (add 000) December, 1948	Per cent change December, 1948 over December, 1947	Per cent change December, 1948 over November, 1948	Per cent change Jan. -to- Dec., 1948 Jan. -to- Dec., 1947
		$	$			
CANADA	48	8,713	9,291	+ 6.6	+ 1.0	-13.1
Maritimes & Quebec	17	2,072	1,907	- 8.0	-12.3	-20.5
Ontario	18	3,284	3,465	+ 5.5	+ 2.0	-10.7
Western Provinces.	13	3,357	3,919	+16.7	+ 1.5	-12.4

RETAIL TRADE

Chain Stores - December, 1948 sales of 963 chain store units operated by 26 chain companies in the food retailing field were 28% higher than sales of 975 stores operated by the same 26 firms in December, 1947. Average sales per store were $37,243 in December, 1948 and $28,827 in the same month of the previous year.

The Quebec increase of 31% was highest among the regional changes, while the lowest gain was one of 18% in the Maritime Provinces.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for December, 1947 and 1948

	December, 1947		December, 1948		% Change in Sales December, 1948 December, 1947
	No. of Stores	Sales $	No. of Stores	Sales $	
CANADA	975	28,106,400	963	35,864,600	+27.6
Maritime Provinces	60	1,079,000	56	1,268,700	+17.6
Quebec	162	5,729,600	158	7,502,900	+31.0
Ontario	495	15,445,800	494	19,566,300	+26.7
Prairie Provinces	107	2,904,200	103	3,689,800	+27.1
British Columbia	151	2,948,100	152	3,836,900	+30.2

Independent Stores - Sales of independent food stores increased 14% in December, 1948 compared with December, 1947.

Comparison of Sales Reported for December, 1947 and 1948

	No. of Stores Reporting	No. Reporting An Increase	% Change in Sales December, 1948 December, 1947
CANADA	735	511	+13.6
Maritime Provinces	129	84	+11.1
Quebec	176	118	+14.7
Ontario	189	138	+14.7
Manitoba	51	37	+18.4
Saskatchewan	33	27	+17.5
Alberta	60	41	+13.5
British Columbia	97	66	+ 8.7

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION

January, 1949

This bulletin brings together the information on retail grocery and wholesale grocery and fruit and vegetable sales contained in other monthly bulletins on the retail and wholesale trade, thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution.

WHOLESALE TRADE

Grocers' Sales

Wholesale grocers' sales in January, 1949 were practically unchanged from the dollar sales volume in January, 1948 and were 5% lower than in December, 1948 according to statements submitted by 73 of the larger wholesalers across Canada. There was, however, some variation in the results for the different regions of the country. Sales in the Maritime Provinces registered practically no change from the volume recorded for January a year ago. Gains of one per cent were recorded in Ontario and the Prairie Provinces while sales in British Columbia were up 5%. Quebec wholesalers, on the other hand, recorded a drop of 11% in dollar volume of sales.

Fruit and Vegetable Wholesalers' Sales

Fruit and vegetable dealers' sales in January, 1949 were 9% higher than in January, 1948 but 18% below the December, 1948 volume according to statements received from 46 of the larger wholesalers across the country. Gains were recorded in all regions. Sales in Ontario were up 7%; in the Maritimes and Quebec combined, 9%; and in the Western Provinces, 11%.

Grocers' Stocks

Stocks in the hands of wholesale grocers at January 31st, 1949 were 5% higher in dollar value than at the same date a year ago and one per cent below the value at the end of December, 1948. Inventories at the beginning of January are normally 63% in excess of sales in that month (based on the average of 1935-1942) and stocks at the beginning of January this year were valued 54% higher than the sales volume for that month.

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Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change	
		January, 1948	January, 1949	January, 1949 over January, 1948	December, 1948
		$	$		
CANADA	73	23,179	23,135	- 0.2	- 4.7
Maritime Provinces	16	3,492	3,487	- 0.1	-10.2
Quebec	19	2,492	2,227	-10.6	-32.8
Ontario	20	8,572	8,639	+ 0.8	- 3.6
Prairie Provinces.	12	6,340	6,375	+ 0.6	+ 8.3
British Columbia .	6	2,283	2,407	+ 5.4	- 2.0

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change	
		January, 1948	January, 1949	January, 1949 over January, 1948	December, 1948
		$	$		
CANADA	46	7,131	7,760	+ 8.8	-18.3
Maritimes & Quebec .	17	1,531	1,674	+ 9.3	-17.1
Ontario	16	2,947	3,138	+ 6.5	- 7.6
Western Provinces ..	13	2,653	2,948	+11.1	-31.0

RETAIL TRADE

Due to a change in the method of computing retail sales estimates the summary appearing below includes grocery, and grocery and combination stores, but does not give representation to meat markets.

Chain Stores - January, 1949 sales of 943 chain store units operated by 21 chain companies in the food retailing field were 2% higher than sales of 943 stores operated by the same 21 firms in January, 1948. Average sales per store were $31,108 in January, 1949 and $30,403 in the same month of the previous year.

British Columbia recorded an increase of 13%, while all other regions showed minor changes.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for January, 1948 and 1949

	January, 1948		January, 1949		% Change in Sales January, 1949 / January, 1948
	No. of Stores	Sales	No. of Stores	Sales	
		$		$	
CANADA	943	28,669,900	943	29,334,900	+ 2.3
Maritime Provinces	60	1,129,500	56	1,112,500	- 1.5
Quebec	161	5,892,200	158	6,178,700	+ 4.9
Ontario	465	15,869,300	464	15,844,600	- 0.2
Prairie Provinces	108	2,909,500	104	2,968,500	+ 2.0
British Columbia	149	2,869,400	161	3,230,600	+12.6

Independent Stores - Sales of Independent food stores increased 3% in January, 1949 compared with January, 1948.

Comparison of Sales Reported for January, 1948 and 1949

	No. of Stores Reporting	No. Reporting An Increase	% Change in Sales January, 1949 / January, 1948
CANADA	646	323	+ 2.9
Maritime Provinces	128	54	- 2.6
Quebec	154	79	+ 4.6
Ontario	168	73	+ 0.1
Manitoba	43	25	+ 6.8
Saskatchewan	24	13	+ 0.6
Alberta	49	35	+22.1
British Columbia	80	44	+ 2.6

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION

February, 1949

This bulletin brings together the information on retail grocery and wholesale grocery and fruit and vegetable sales contained in other monthly bulletins on the retail and wholesale trade, thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution.

WHOLESALE TRADE

Grocers' Sales

Dollar volume of wholesale grocers' sales was 4% higher in February, 1949 than in February, 1948 and 3% lower than in January, 1949 according to reports submitted by 75 of the larger wholesalers across Canada. The Province of Quebec, with sales down 12%, was the only region to record a decline in sales volume from last year. Grocery wholesalers in the Maritime Provinces reported sales 2% above February last year. Sales in Ontario and in British Columbia were up 7% and in the Prairie Provinces, 9%.

Fruit and Vegetable Wholesalers' Sales

Dollar sales in the wholesale fruit and vegetable trade in February were 4% above February a year ago and 10% higher than in January according to statements from 49 of the larger dealers across the country. The Maritime Provinces and Quebec combined registered a decline in dollar volume from last year of 4%. Sales in Ontario were 3% in excess of the volume a year ago and in British Columbia were up 10%.

Grocers' Stocks

Wholesale grocers' inventories at the end of February, 1949 were valued 7% higher than at the same date in 1948 and 5% lower than at the end of January, 1949. Inventories at the beginning of February are normally 66% in excess of sales in that month (based on the average of 1935-1942). Stocks at the beginning of February this year were almost at the normal ratio to sales, being 62% higher in value than sales in that month.

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Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) February, 1948	Dollar Sales (add 000) February, 1949	Per cent change February, 1949 over February, 1948	Per cent change February, 1949 over January, 1949
		$	$		
CANADA	75	24,030	25,014	+ 4.1	- 2.5
Maritime Provinces	15	3,205	3,276	+ 2.2	- 1.5
Quebec	20	3,698	3,245	-12.3	+11.6
Ontario	21	7,523	8,063	+ 7.2	- 7.6
Prairie Provinces.	12	5,920	6,477	+ 9.4	+ 1.7
British Columbia .	7	3,684	3,953	+ 7.3	- 8.8

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) February, 1948	Dollar Sales (add 000) February, 1949	Per cent change February, 1949 over February, 1948	Per cent change February, 1949 over January, 1949
		$	$		
CANADA	49	7,266	7,545	+ 3.8	+ 0.7
Maritimes & Quebec.	18	1,728	1,653	- 4.4	+17.7
Ontario	18	2,915	2,999	+ 2.9	- 8.2
Western Provinces .	13	2,623	2,893	+10.3	+ 4.4

RETAIL TRADE

Due to a change in the method of computing retail sales estimates the summary appearing below includes grocery, and grocery and combination stores, but does not give representation to meat markets.

Chain Stores - February, 1949 sales of 914 chain store units operated by 20 chain companies in the food retailing field were 13% higher than sales of 919 stores operated by the same 20 firms in February, 1948. Average sales per store were $31,934 in February, 1949 and $28,102 in the same month of the previous year.

A gain of 23% in British Columbia featured the regional changes in sales. The Maritime Provinces' increase of 6% was quite moderate in comparison with results for other sections of the country.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for February, 1948 and 1949.

	February, 1948		February, 1949		% Change in Sales February, 1949 February, 1948
	No. of Stores	Sales $	No. of Stores	Sales $	
CANADA	919	25,825,900	914	29,187,800	+13.0
Maritime Provinces	59	929,600	54	982,100	+ 5.6
Quebec	161	5,491,200	159	6,317,300	+15.0
Ontario	466	14,355,100	463	15,879,400	+10.6
Prairie Provinces	108	2,606,100	104	3,011,500	+15.6
British Columbia	125	2,443,900	134	2,997,500	+22.7

Independent Stores - Sales of Indenpendent food stores increased 8% in February, 1949 compared with February, 1948. Provincial increases are shown in the following table.

Comparison of Sales Reported for February, 1948 and 1949

	No. of Stores Reporting	No. Reporting An Increase	% Change in Sales February, 1949 February, 1948
CANADA	664	415	+ 8.0
Maritime Provinces	134	78	+ 0.5
Quebec	157	86	+ 7.3
Ontario	171	108	+ 9.9
Manitoba	48	36	+ 9.6
Saskatchewan	23	18	+11.8
Alberta	49	39	+24.8
British Columbia	82	50	+ 2.8

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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION

March, 1949

This bulletin brings together the information on retail grocery and wholesale grocery and fruit and vegetable sales contained in other monthly bulletins on the retail and wholesale trade, thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution.

WHOLESALE TRADE

Grocers' Sales

Wholesale grocers' sales in March, 1949 were 7% higher in dollar volume than in March a year ago and were 14% above the February, 1949 volume according to statements from 77 of the larger wholesalers across Canada. Cumulative sales for the first quarter of 1949 exceeded the dollar volume for the corresponding period of 1948 by 4%. Quebec, with a decrease of 4%, was the only province to register a drop in sales from March a year ago. Cumulative sales for the year to date for this province were 7% below the sales in the first three months of 1948. Other regions registered gains as follows: British Columbia, 4%; the Maritime Provinces, 6%; Ontario, 8%; and the Prairie Provinces, 12%.

Fruit and Vegetable Dealers' Sales

Dollar sales of fruit and vegetable wholesalers showed an increase of 18% over March, 1948 and 21% over February, 1949, bringing the sales for the year to date to 10% in excess of the sales volume in the corresponding period of 1948. Ontario dealers reported an increase of 15%, while gains of 19% and 21% were registered in the Maritime Provinces and the Western Provinces respectively.

Grocers' Inventories

Dollar value of stocks in the hands of wholesale grocers at the end of March was 3% higher than at the same date a year ago but 10% below the value reported for the end of February. Stocks on hand at the beginning of March are normally 49% in excess of sales in that month (based on the average for 1936 - 1942). Wholesale grocers' inventories at the beginning of March this year were valued 23% in excess of sales in that month.

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Single copies, - .10

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) March, 1948	Dollar Sales (add 000) March, 1949	Per cent change March, 1949 over March, 1948	Per cent change March, 1949 over February, 1949	Per cent change Jan.-to-Mar., 1949 over Jan.-to-Mar., 1948
		$	$			
CANADA	77	26,302	28,121	+ 6.9	+14.3	+ 3.9
Maritime Provinces ..	16	3,778	3,993	+ 5.7	+24.6	+ 2.7
Quebec	19	2,938	2,826	- 3.8	+14.9	- 7.4
Ontario	22	8,688	9,407	+ 8.3	+12.9	+ 5.6
Prairie Provinces ...	12	6,676	7,499	+12.3	+12.5	+ 7.5
British Columbia	8	4,222	4,396	+ 4.1	+ 9.8	+ 5.8

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000) March, 1948	Dollar Sales (add 000) March, 1949	Per cent change March, 1949 over March, 1948	Per cent change March, 1949 over February, 1949	Per cent change Jan.,-to-March,1949 over Jan.,-to-March,1948
		$	$			
CANADA	47	7,966	9,404	+18.1	+21.1	+10.2
Maritimes and Quebec .	17	1,748	2,082	+19.1	+21.5	+ 8.0
Ontario	17	3,256	3,753	+15.3	+31.0	+ 8.9
Western Provinces ...	13	2,962	3,569	+20.5	+ 7.0	+14.0

RETAIL TRADE

Due to a change in the method of computing retail sales estimates the summary appearing below includes grocery, and grocery and combination stores, but does not give representation to meat markets for which separate sales estimates are available.

Chain Stores - March, 1949 sales of 961 chain store units operated by 23 chain companies in the food retailing field were 14% higher than sales of 978 stores operated by the same 23 firms in March, 1948. Average sales per store were $33,878 in March, 1949 and $29,129 in the same month of the previous year.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for March, 1948 and 1949.

	March, 1948		March, 1949		% Change in Sales March, 1949 March, 1948
	No. of Stores	Sales $	No. of Stores	Sales $	
CANADA	978	28,488,000	961	32,556,400	+14.3
Maritime Provinces	72	1,088,100	68	1,209,500	+11.2
Quebec	162	5,931,900	159	7,313,200	+23.3
Ontario	468	15,411,600	462	16,894,900	+ 9.6
Prairie Provinces	115	2,986,900	111	3,545,800	+18.7
British Columbia	161	3,069,500	161	3,593,000	+17.1

Independent Stores - Sales of Independent food stores increased 8% in March, 1949 compared with March, 1948. Provincial increases are shown in the following table.

Comparison of Sales Reported for March, 1948 and 1949

	No. of Stores Reporting	No. Reporting An Increase	% Change in Sales March, 1949 March, 1948
CANADA	677	423	+ 7.9
Maritime Provinces	139	80	+ 1.1
Quebec	165	83	+ 2.6
Ontario	171	113	+12.3
Manitoba	42	30	+12.0
Saskatchewan	26	21	+16.6
Alberta	47	42	+24.3
British Columbia	87	54	+ 7.0

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